

March 23, 2017

RE: Support for SB 278

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kela Lynn. I am a Social Worker, working in the Lebanon Community School District (LCSD). I am here today to encourage support for SB 278, a bill that would increase students' access to School Social Workers (SSWs). SSWs are uniquely positioned improve the academic success of our youth.

As noted in the 2016 Chronic Absenteeism Report commissioned by the Chief Education Office, attendance is foundationally essential to school success. Like other rural districts in the state, LCSD shares in this concern, especially considering that 32% of Lebanon High School students in 2015-2016 were "chronically absent" (missing more than 10% of their school days). Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), structured behavior modification programs, only go so far, encouraging and motivating appropriate behavior. A behaviorist approach directs us to take a look below the behavior and investigate: what is the function? what does a student gain? A social work perspective places another lens: what is the context, both micro and mezzo in which this behavior exists? This is the true sense of Trauma Informed. All interventions will make an impact on student attendance and add layers of response. Although, to make long-term trajectory changing possibilities for our youth, the student, family, and community are deserving of policies and procedures that support success.

Case Study: Kindergarten Student

- Throwing objects, creaming intensely, rolling around on carpet, not accessing academics
- Experiences tooth pain at school
- Needs intensive-level behavior response and intervention plan put in place (5-point plan)

Holistic Approach of a School Social Worker

Concerns:

- Parents divorced
- Father died two years ago
- Mom suffers from respiratory heart failure
- Child is missing school, tooth pain, needing individual education plan (IEP) support
- From an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) standpoint, there are significant concerns

Strengths:

- Mom's self determination to continue to be primary caregiver and involvement
- Grandma is supportive in child's life

Interventions through a Social Work Mezzo/Macro lens of a holistic approach

- Continue to encourage and build on mom’s strength and grandma’s support
- Introduce Delegation of Power—self determined by mom
- Individual Education Plan that supports lagging skills success, further testing
- Introduce Transition’s Program through Hospice Support
- Delegation of Power—involvement of inter-agencies to discuss barriers of access
- Macro: Systems Change—dentist accepts this paperwork

Student Wellness Survey, 11 graders, 2014, 2016

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

	Lebanon	
	2014	2016
Were your parents ever separated or divorced after you were born?	51.5%	42.9%
Have you ever lived with someone who is/was a problem drinker or alcoholic?	35.5%	36.6%
Have you ever lived with someone who uses/used street drugs?	25.0%	26.1%
Have you ever lived with a household member who is/was depressed or mentally ill?	43.0%	44.0%
Have you ever felt that you did not have enough to eat?	15.2%	14.2%
Have you ever felt that you had to wear dirty clothes?	12.7%	9.3%
Have you ever felt that you had no one to protect you?	19.5%	15.3%