

Dear House Education Committee,

I am communicating with you with regard to HB 3395. This bill would allow school districts to employ individuals licensed as school social workers to provide to students in kindergarten through grade eight services that school counselors provide.

I am - brief introductory statement about where you live and what you do. It might also be of value for you to indicate that you are a member of the Oregon School Counselor Association and the American School Counselor Association so that the legislator can see you have professional affiliation and are concerned about the ethical standards of our profession.)

I request that you vote NO on this bill unless you are thoroughly convinced that school social workers have the educational preparation to provide the comprehensive counseling and guidance services stipulated in OARs 541-022-1510, 541-022-0405, or 541-022-1130. If you vote yes and school social workers are not adequately prepared to meet the requirements of

these OARs, it would not only be unethical for them to be placed in these roles but also certainly not in the best interests of students nor the school buildings and districts in which they are placed nor even in the best interests of the school social worker.

What I suggest is that you vote no on this HB 3395 and then recommend that a special committee or commission be convened to review the preparation standards for school social workers to determine if they are being adequately prepared to fulfill these OARs or at the very least that you seek input from the ODE Specialists legally responsible for seeing that these legal mandates be fulfilled.

To properly support our students in their educational journeys and increase the rates/success of graduation as to move students into the college and career-ready

work force, we must vote no on HB 3395. Students need access to school counselors in the schools (who are properly trained and licensed for the educational setting) and who connect to outside agencies, where student can utilize licensed social workers through community agencies outside of the school. This provides wrap-around servicing so that the student may have continued support in development while at home and outside of the school as well.

Thank you for your actions to move forward legislature to properly support our students and families.

Best,

Miranda Linville

School Counselor

Laurel Elementary/Territorial Elementary

Junction City, OR.