

Dear House Education Committee,

I'm writing you this letter in regards to HB 3395. This bill allows school districts to employ a person licensed as school social worker to provide students in kindergarten through eighth grade services that school counselor provide.

I'm a current student in the School of Social Work at PSU. While I'm only obtaining my bachelors at the moment, my educational career goal is to obtain my MSW specializing in school social work.

Recently you have received a letter in regards to this bill and how it is unethical to vote yes. This letter also states certain OAR's (581-022-1510, 581-022-0405, and 581-022-1130, which the letter you received was incorrect as they stated OAR's 541...) could possibly not be met if you did vote yes. School social workers can and are trained in:

- Participating in special education assessment meetings as well as Individual Educational Planning meetings.
- Working with problems in a child's living situation that affect the child's adjustment in school, such as home, school, and community.
- Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability.
- Counseling (group, individual and/or family)
- Mobilizing family, school, and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program.
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

This is not including many services school counselors provide that school social workers can provide as well. That being said, I wonder how often it is a school counselor does home visits or teaches in class.

While wrap around services are great, a school social workers are specifically trained to ensure student's needs are met by connecting them with appropriate resources often at the school.

This bill simply allows schools to have the option to choose whether they want a school social worker or school counselor. With that in mind, I hope you vote YES on this bill and allow school social workers the chance to help in the fight for making long lasting change for students and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Melchor Solis
Future School Social Worker