

April 11, 2017

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) has developed a National Model for School Counselors to address the academic, career, and personal/emotional needs of k-12 students in comprehensive, evidence-based, data driven programs.

School Counselors are trained to evaluate the needs of an individual school, prioritize goals, consider the schools vision, implement interventions, and evaluate program outcomes.

Evidence-based effective school counselor interventions include:

**Improvements in:**

- college and career readiness skills
- academic achievement
- emotional and social competence
- school climate, school safety
- resilience and leadership skills
- reading comprehension, listening comprehension, attending skills
- math ability, reading ability
- trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship, and fairness

**Reductions in:**

- aggression
- anxiety-related behaviors and symptoms
- behavioral and emotional challenges
- bullying
- conflict and violence
- absenteeism

As a counselor educator, with over 10 years experience, school counselors are specialized professionals, prepared to effectively address the needs of all students. Delivery of a comprehensive school counseling program is mandated by OARs 541-022-1510, 541-022-0405, and 541-022-1130 and is accomplished via classroom guidance, small group counseling, and individual planning.

Although other professionals may be exposed to some of these aspects, school counselors are expected to demonstrate these skills for accredited graduation and future licensure.

Allow school counselors to work as school counselors. Please do not encourage ancillary professions to apply for positions for which they are not fully trained.

**Vote NO on HB 3395** (allows school social workers to be hired as school counselors).

**Vote NO on HB 2658** (requests funding for interventions school counselors provide).

Sincerely,

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