

March 6, 2019

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter to inform you of our disapproval of the proposed House Bill 2441. We have spent the last three + years working towards a master's in school counseling through George Fox University. Our training has prepared us to function as both mental health professionals and educational leaders equipped to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive school counseling programs. Our training positions us to meet the needs of all students in the four domains of academic achievement, career and social/emotional development, and community involvement. We recognize that school social workers can play an important role in schools connecting the community to students; however, this is not synonymous with the role played by school counselors.

If school social workers wish to work as school counselors, there is an existing pathway for them to do so via licensure only school counseling programs available throughout the state. This would equip them for the role of school counselor. This letter of advocacy aims to protect the role of school counselor for the benefit of all students and families. We urge you to vote NO on House Bill 2441.

Sincerely,

Ashley Hodges Natalie Zukowski Will Bower David Gustin
Jami Yamaguchi Regina Flynn Shereena Johnston, Claire Lawrence
Ashley Richards Jared Larson

George Fox University Master's in School Counseling Cohort 2019

Ashley Hodges, Natalie Zukowski, Will Bower, David Gustin, Jessica Yamaguchi,
Regina Flynn, Shereena Johnston, Claire Lawrence, Ashley Richards, Jared Larson,
Alyssa Olson, Kaitlyn Dove