



House Bill 2441-1: Coordinated Comprehensive School Counseling Program
House Education Committee
March 9, 2019

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to voice strong opposition to HB 2441-1, Coordinated Comprehensive School Counseling Program. I have 18 years of experience as a school counselor educator in Oregon, preceded by 20 years as a practicing school counselor. As a school counselor educator I have worked with over 150 school counseling candidates and as many licensed school counselors serving as supervisors. Based on these experiences I can assure you that implementing a comprehensive school counseling program calls for rigorous training specific to the demands of this job.

In the helping professions there are many areas of expertise. School counseling has long been one of them, with nationally recognized domains that define the work in relation to other helpers. Developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive school counseling programs is one of the defining tasks of the profession, and is an important part of the training to engage in it. For persons wishing to undertake this work there is a profession that already exists: school counseling. There are also two clearly defined training paths already available in Oregon for those wishing to pursue this work: a master's in school counseling program or a licensure-only program available to persons with a master's degree in a mental health field. My colleagues and I would welcome persons trained as school social workers to apply for the latter at any of our institutions, to round out their training and so equip themselves to do the important work of implementing comprehensive school counseling programs.

House Bill 2441-1 implies that this training and its resulting expertise is negligible. This is simply not so. I urge you to oppose HB 2441-1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. DeKruyf', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

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