

To: House Committee on Education

From: Dr. Heather Hadraba

Date: 3/10/19

Re: Opposition to HB 2441-1 (Coordinated Comprehensive School Counseling Program)

I am communicating with you with regard to HB 2441-1. This bill would allow school districts to employ individuals licensed as school social workers to implement comprehensive school counseling programs. I request that you vote NO on this bill.

I am Heather Hadraba, program director of the Lewis & Clark College School Counseling program. I am writing on behalf of the Lewis & Clark school counseling program faculty and staff. As a school counselor educator, I have a clear understanding of the training, role, and work of professional school counselors.

1. This bill does not match current rule for Comprehensive School Counseling (OAR 581-022-2060) that each school is required to provide a comprehensive school counseling program.
2. This bill does not address the gap in training for current school social workers or other licensed personnel to gain the competencies for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program.

The work of a school counselor is centrally focused on equity and social justice. School counselors are systemic change agents, equity agents, and agents of PK-12 college-going cultures. I oppose this legislation because school counselors are the only educational leaders that have the training to conscientiously work to fully implement the Oregon Comprehensive Counseling Framework (OCCF) in school settings. The school counseling graduate programs across our state align their *entire* program curriculum to the state counseling framework in order to prepare school counselors to design, implement, and evaluate school counseling programs that meet the requirements stated in the Oregon Administrative Rules.

School counselors engage in coordinated program planning that result in school specific action plans which promote the academic, personal-social, career development of PK-12 students. Moreover, school counselors also have a depth of understanding related to the development of a PK-12 college going culture and possess the unique skill set to work towards increasing the college and career readiness of a diverse student population. School counselors commit to increasing college access for traditionally underserved populations; and they understand how this essential work begins in elementary school. At the heart of the work of PK-12 school counselors is the intentional engagement in systematic processes for utilizing data to address equity and effectiveness in their current practices.

Please vote NO on House Bill 2441-1 to ensure that school counselors can continue to be educational leaders engaged in the best practices that promote equity and excellence, and most importantly college and career readiness for all PK-12 students across our state.

Heather Hadraba, Ph.D.
Program Director
Assistant Professor
Lewis & Clark College
Graduate School of Education and Counseling
School Counseling Program