

Dear Representative Doherty,

I am writing to ask for your support for HB 2442 and 2940. These two bills will assure more robust services in our schools. HB2441 will clarify that school Social Workers can implement the comprehensive school counseling framework. This is something they have already been doing for years in their roles as Child Development Specialist, but passing this bill will clarify that administrators who want social work oriented services in their high need schools can choose whether they prefer a social worker or a counselor to implement the counseling framework. This will allow much more choice and diversity in these positions. HB 2940 establishes a pilot program to increase public schools served by school social workers and appropriates 20 million for districts to apply for grants to do this.

School social work services are essential in schools in responding to students who are impacted by trauma, poverty, and cultural oppression.

School social workers have the training and education that makes them uniquely qualified to understand and develop systems that support students and families with the biggest barriers to academic achievement and subsequent life success. All school social workers have explicit education around systemic racism and discrimination, which is a central factor in Oregon's persistently low graduation rates for students of color.

My personal experience seeing school social workers make a difference for students includes....

We are urging you to vote **YES** on HB 2441 and HB 2940! These bills will give Oregon's school children the chance to:

- Connect with resources and agencies that provide support for basic needs, such as housing, food and utilities
- Get access to crisis intervention, family outreach, and mental health and addiction services.

Thank you for your support,

Susie Snyder LCSW  
Professor Emeritas  
Portland State University School of Social Work

(P.S. I have also been an involved parent of two daughters who attended PPS for all 13 years of their primary education).