

I am writing to voice concerns about House Bill 2441-1. I have a social work degree, but I obtained a license in school counseling through George Fox.

My experience obtaining my MSW came with knowing the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. I learned clinical theories and formally diagnosed clients in the clinical setting. I did NOT gain any knowledge pertaining to specific college and career readiness in schools, academic advising experience, teaching practice, IEP/504 knowledge, testing/aptitude interpretations, nor guidance lesson practice.

I knew that in order to become fully competent as a school counselor, not only did I have to be knowledgeable about mental health, but I needed to be familiar with the school system perspective. TSPC guidelines are different than LCSW guidelines. NASW and ASCA are different entities with parallel codes of ethics, but ASCA guidelines are more relevant for school counselors and students. School counselors do not focus on individual therapy. We do a disservice to the field and are negligent if we hire social workers who do not have relevant school exposure or credentials.

Through my licensure program at George Fox, I became prepared address the multifaceted aspects of school counseling. Exposure to teaching and internships helped me empathize with faculty who work with students and improved my confidence when working in a team. If I had not gone through the licensure program, I would have been practicing outside of ASCA guidelines and I would be lost in the system, not knowing how to navigate.