

From: msocks88@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Melinda Stocking](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:48:37 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

I am a part time school counselor in Sweet Home Oregon. I serve approximately 150 students in a small K-6 school. My students struggle with generational poverty, high levels of trauma, parental drug use and incarceration, food and housing insecurity. Many of my students are living in tent trailers parked at someone else's home. They lack access to laundry services, and often come to school hungry and tired from a lack of safe sleeping arrangements. As a part time school counselor, I frequently have students approach me in crisis at the end of my scheduled day. I often stay late, off the clock, to meet their needs. They cannot schedule their crisis, and I can't put off a suicidal student, or a student struggling with domestic violence as a problem for tomorrow. My district has worked hard to increase funding for school counseling in our schools. The needs are high, and we need more funding to meet the mental health needs of our students. My students deserve the opportunity to build the social emotional skills they need to be successful in their future careers and to pull their families out of poverty for the next generation.

Sincerely,
Melinda Stocking
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