

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to HB 2876-1 regarding a comprehensive school counseling program. I have some concerns regarding the language in this bill specifically as it states that a comprehensive school counseling program could be delivered by a social worker.

While I do believe there is a place for social workers in schools I am strongly opposed to social workers working in the capacity of a school counselor. They simply do not have adequate training. I have worked in a social work position before completing my Master's in Counseling and obtaining dual licensure as both a school counselor and an LPC. The training that social workers receive is vastly different and should not be interchangeable with counselors. More so, in Oregon (which differs from other states) school counselors are required to do a student teaching practicum which social workers do not do. Classroom and proactive teaching is an essential component of a school counseling program. I simply do not believe that it is in the best interest of my own children to have a social worker who has less hours of education, and vastly less practical training specifically in schools to deliver a counseling program. Please oppose this bill until the language is changed to state that school counseling programs be delivered by licensed school counselors.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Brooke Gale MA, NBCC, Licensed School Counselor

Sent from my iPhone