

To: House Committee on Rules
From: Annarie Wergeland
Date: May 6, 2019
Re: Opposition to HB 2876-1 (Coordinated Comprehensive School Counseling Program)

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2876-1. I oppose HB 2876-1 because this bill does not match the current rule for Comprehensive School Counseling (OAR 581-022-2060), in which each school is required to provide a comprehensive school counseling program. This bill does not address the Child Development Specialist Programs (OAR 581-021-0013) personnel who are not TSPC licensed and are currently hired to implement a comprehensive school counseling program.

This bill does not address the gap in training for current school social workers (SSW) or other licensed personnel to gain the competencies for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program. Portland State University is the only SSW preparation provider and they have a policy around not duplicating program components. Therefore, SSWs do not receive the same training as school counselors. The current TSPC rule is that SSWs cannot be hired as school counselors, so school districts will need to consider how they advertise open positions for implementing a comprehensive school counseling program. Districts will need to consider revising or developing new job descriptions for personnel who will to implement a comprehensive school counseling program.

If HB 2876-1 passes, districts would need to pay for personnel to get additional training on implementing comprehensive school counseling programs. SSWs and other licensed personnel would also need to pay for additional training on implementing a comprehensive school counseling program until preparation providers incorporate this training in their programs.

For the reasons outlined above, please do not support HB 2876-1. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

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"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

- Nelson Mandela

"Creativity is part of human nature. It can only be untaught."

- Ai Weiwei, Chinese artist & activist