

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Erin Boelow

Date: May 6th, 2019

Re: Opposition to HB 2876-1 (Coordinated Comprehensive School Counseling Program)

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2876-1.

As a licensed school counselor, I work everyday with a team of people, who help me to implement a coordinated comprehensive school-counseling program. We all have specific roles that we play, in the support of this program, but the implementation of our program, was done by certified school counselors, who have the training and knowledge required, to create a fully comprehensive implementation.

When Representative Hernandez said in his testimony, *“I don’t care what profession delivers that,”* (referring to the school counseling program), I say, I do care, as a school counselor, but also as a parent and community member. Our students deserve the best that we can provide! I believe that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) states quite clearly, that comprehensive school counseling programs require specialized training, which School Social Workers do not receive.

“Comprehensive school counseling programs serve an integral role in schools and are required for districts and schools in Oregon. They are effectively delivered by state-credentialed School Counselors, whose specialized training is in strategically developing and implementing a comprehensive school counseling program, that addresses barriers to learning and promotes effective transitions by providing opportunities for each and every student to acquire and master critical skills that enable them to learn, work, interact with others, and contribute to their community. Effective program implementation and successful student outcomes are best achieved when School Counselors are spending at least eighty percent of their time providing direct and indirect counseling services and have student to counselor ratios at or near the national recommended level of 250:1,” (*Oregon Department of Education website*).

I oppose HB 2876 because:

This bill was created to “check a box.” There are school districts that are in violation of compliance in meeting the Division 22 standard, but providing districts the *“flexibility”* to bypass these standards, is a disservice to the students of Oregon.

*I urge you to **oppose** HB 2876-1.*

Sincerely,

Erin Boelow

Licensed School Counselor