

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Melissa Corwin, Licensed School Counselor

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. School Counselors are a vital and key member of schools. The training School Counselors receive in the graduate programs includes specific training to create, implement, and run a Comprehensive School Counseling Program. Replacing School Counselors with other Professionals would be similar to say that a Dentist and an OBGYN can both deliver babies! Both are in the medical field, but the training could not be more different.

I oppose HB 2876 and I urge you to oppose HB 2876-1 as well. I oppose the idea of putting untrained professionals into positions with children expecting them to do the same job as School Counselors. School Counselors have training in Mental Health, Data, teaching practicums, research, leadership, School based interventions, and specifically the American School Counseling Association's ASCA National Model which the Oregon Framework for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs is associated with.

There is countless research on the positive impacts School Counselors have in schools and in students' achievement. This article focuses on College attendance and FAFSA Completion Outcomes. <https://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/JCA-FAFSA-Article-Jan-2016-Summer-Melt.pdf>

In my own building, Oregon City High School, through my own efforts have increased our FAFSA Rates from 49% in 2015 to 65.6% in 2016 by looking at data and piloting a FAFSA Plus program in our building. In one year we increased by over 15%! That is one example of what ONE School Counselor can do in ONE year. I have many more examples.

With increased Mental Health issues and School Safety issues, we need to adequately staff our schools to meet the needs of our students. The American School Counseling Association recommends a Student Counselor Ratio of 250:1. There is also countless research to back that. <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Publications/ParzychInfographic.pdf>

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Careers-Roles/Effectiveness.pdf>

Overall, Schools CAN benefit from partnering with outside agencies, and have other professionals in the building as part of the mental health, community support, outreach support. However, there is no place to put NON School Counselors into School Counselor roles.

The Oregon's Framework Mission Statement: " The mission of comprehensive school counseling in Oregon is to provide developmental and systematic support to each and every student to ensure the academic, career, social/emotional development and achievement, and support participation in the broader community. Comprehensive School Counseling Programs (CSCPs) are proactive and preventative. CSCPs enhance learning by assisting students to acquire critical skills for lifelong learning and success. CSCPs embrace professional standards and models for best practice in the field.

Comprehensive school counseling programs provide an array of interventions and supports for

students. These are delivered collaboratively with school staff, families, and members of the community to provide seamless transitions to each student's next steps. The goal is that each student will leave the pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade system with the skills and knowledge to live, learn, work, and contribute in both local and global communities."

https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/guidance_counseling/Documents/2018%20Framework%20for%20CSC%20Programs.pdf

The bold part of the mission statement above is what *HB 2876-1* is taking out of context. It does not mean a NON School Counselor is running the program. It means that the program is Comprehensive and is SCHOOL WIDE, Community Wide. It takes a village to raise our kids.

***** Let's support our kids. Let's take what research is proving time and time again and get our Student/Counselor Ratios at 250:1 or below so the trained professionals CAN truly make a difference for every student, in each school, in each of our communities, and state wide.**

Sincerely,

Melissa Corwin

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