

Submitter: Shannon Hanson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Budget Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed education budget increase to support school social workers. As a teacher, I have witnessed the critical role that school social workers play in providing support to our students, particularly those who are facing significant challenges such as homelessness, mental health crises, and threats to their safety. Without this support, I would not be able to teach my students effectively.

School social workers are an essential part of the support network in our schools. They work tirelessly to provide social, emotional, and mental health support to our students, as well as connecting them with necessary resources. They also provide critical support to families who are facing challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity. By doing so, they help to ensure that our students have the stability and support they need to succeed in school and beyond.

As a teacher, I have worked closely with school social workers to identify students who are in need of support and to develop intervention plans to address their needs. I have seen firsthand the impact that school social workers can have on our students' lives. They have helped my homeless students find housing and access resources, worked with students who are struggling with mental health challenges, and completed suicide and threat assessments to keep students alive and safe.

Without school social workers, I would not be able to teach my students effectively. I would spend much of my time addressing the social and emotional needs of my students, which would take away from the academic instruction they require. School social workers allow me to focus on teaching while they provide the necessary support to our students.

In conclusion, I strongly support the proposed education budget increase to support school social workers. They are critical to the success of our students and play an essential role in ensuring that all students have the support and resources they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Shannon Hanson
5th Grade Teacher