



Legislative Written Testimony

House Bill 3840 SA #1

Dear Executive Committee:

We are writing to express our concerns over the “Trauma Counselor” language that appears in House Bill 3840 Senate Amendment #1. The mental and physical safety and well-being of students is a top priority for school districts across the state. Options should be made available to students who suffer trauma. Schools may address student trauma in different ways, either through school personnel (counselors and social workers) or by contracting with professionals outside of the school system.

We are concerned about the reporting methods for initiating counseling for a student. If a student tells a school employee about trauma, but the employee does not report it to district administration or other school leaders, is the district still liable for providing the services? Students have unique experiences and backgrounds that lead to different trauma experiences for all.

We are also concerned with the availability of trauma counselors as defined in the bill. Students may be getting services from school personnel that would not have the correct licensing as described in the bill. School district finances and local community resources also impact what services are available and where.

We appreciate that mental health services are needed for our students, especially in these times of uncertainty. We would request more flexibility to meet the needs of students.

Thank you for your consideration.

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