

Illinois Association of School Social Workers

www.iasw.org



1600 W. Lake St. Ste. 103B-189
Addison, IL 60101

January 10, 2021

RE: HB 2170 -Omnibus Education Bill

The Illinois Association of School Social Workers supports the intent and purpose of this bill to fortify and strengthen the educational resources that are offered to children from Early Intervention through college and to meaningfully address educational equity in Illinois. We welcome the opportunity to work with Leader Lightford, the Legislative Black Caucus, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education to further the goals of this legislation.

In regard to the Whole Child Task Force established under Article 25 of Senate Amendment #2, the Illinois Association of School Social Workers very much appreciates the addition of a school social worker to the membership. School social workers and other school support personnel directly work with students and staff to address the social and emotional, behavioral and mental health needs of students.

IASSW believes that the Task Force would be bolstered by also including other school support endorsement domains. School psychologists, school counselors, school nurses and speech and language pathologists are, along with school social workers, part of teams that address various social and emotional and mental health needs of students and the Task Force would benefit from their expertise and perspectives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tebbe
IASSW Executive Director

IASSW was founded in 1970 as not-for-profit organization and is dedicated to improving the quality of life and education for children by enhancing the professional development of school social workers.