



Our mission is to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, college or career training.

April 10, 2017

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair  
House Committee on Education

Re: Please vote NO on the proposed amendments to House Bill 2658

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee:

Stand for Children opposes the proposed amendments to HB 2658, that allocate dollars from Measure 98 to the social workers pilot program.

Measure 98 created the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund to give school districts the means and the flexibility to expand and/or establish three programs and strategies that when used in concert are proven to increase graduation rates. Those three critical programs and strategies are: career technical education, college preparation, and dropout prevention.

While increasing the number of social workers in our schools is one possible strategy for dropout prevention, the proposed amendments to HB 2658 would reduce flexibility to districts by mandating that a portion of dropout prevention funds from the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund be used on a pilot program for social workers. We believe districts would be better served by having flexibility to use dropout prevention funds according to their local needs at the high school level, using the parameters outlined in the Measure. Additionally, the proposed amendments would lower each school district's overall Measure 98 allocation, further eroding their ability to implement the three critical pillars that will be most effective for their local needs.

Evidence on the ground shows that all three programs and strategies incorporated in Measure 98 work in tandem with one another to boost graduation rates. The Measure also gives districts the flexibility to choose precisely how to allocate funds between these programs and strategies, and what kinds of tactics to use.

We urge you to maintain the current flexibility outlined in Measure 98 for the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund, and vote NO on the proposed amendments to HB 2658.

Sincerely,

Parasa Chanramy

Policy & Advocacy Manager