

To: [Senate](#) Committee on Rules

From: Benjamin Hildner, School Counselor @ Scott School in Portland, OR

Re: Opposition to HB 2876-1 (Coordinated Comprehensive School Counseling Program)

*I oppose HB 2876 for several reasons. First, and foremost, I am a School Counselor by training. I am not a social worker, therapist, homeroom teacher, school psychologist or other student support professional. There is a significant and important distinction in the work I do. In a phrase, **I remove obstacles to learning for ALL students**. I do this through guidance lessons covering a wide range of Social Emotional Learning skills - from identifying and regulating emotions to career exploration. I have training in sexual development and suicide prevention as well as systems thinking and action research. No single category can describe how important my role is to the success of my school, particularly as a Title I majority-minority school. It's why I have a license and a graduate degree specific to my role.*

The implicit purpose of HB 2876-1 (formerly 2441) is to dilute this role, and simplify it down as if my training wasn't necessary. Yes, corners will be cut. In a time where we are understanding more and more the impact of microaggressions and soft-skills, I hope you understand that this is not a role for just any qualified professional. My job is unique, and a critical part of any Oregon student's education.

I urge you to push back against HB 2876-1, and I appreciate your attention to my perspective.

*Ben Hildner
School Counselor
Scott School
Portland, OR*