



**Julie Prindle, PH.D., LCSW**  
Senior Manager Social Work Services

**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Multiple Pathways to Graduation**  
501 North Dixon Street • Portland, OR 97227  
(503) 975-4898 • Fax: (503) 916-2238

May 21, 2019

Dear Honorable Ginny Burdock, Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to ask for your support in passing HB 2876-2. I am the Senior Manager of Social Work Services for Multiple Pathways to Graduation for Portland Public Schools as well as an adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work at Portland State University. I have been involved in helping get social work services back into the schools for the last decade as a member of the School Social Work Consortium at PSU. I teach and train social workers to work in schools and address the multitude of social service and mental health needs in the school community. I am confident school social workers are well prepared to support schools, as a result of their rigorous training, education and 2 years of field internship.

I am continually asked by administrators each year for support in finding ways to be able to hire school social workers. They often feel tied to follow a rule which appears to limit their hiring ability to school counselors when what they are asking for is the skills and expertise of a social worker to meet the highest needs in their buildings. In an ideal world schools would be provided the funding to have both needed resources in the building. However, with limited funds for this level of support in buildings, administrators are left with little option for hiring a social worker. As someone who holds a Master's in Social Work and a Ph D in Counseling Education, I have had the opportunity to supervise both school social workers and school counselors. After supervising school counselors in training, I can definitely speak to the lack of rigor and placement evaluation tools which social workers undergo and which highly prepare social workers to be equipped to meet the multitude of needs in a school system. I know if an administrator has a need for social work services and school counseling services, the school social worker would be able to meet this demand and beyond.

School Social Workers, PSU, ODE, and Representative Hernandez have been hard at work collaborating and working to move this bill forward over the last year. I am proud of the tireless hours social workers have put into this as strong advocates for the students, families and teachers they support. Thank you for our support of HB2876-2.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Julie Prindle