

Submitter: Chloe Thomason
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Budget Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed budget increase to support school social workers. As a school counselor, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role that school social workers play in providing support to students and their families who are experiencing mental health crises and in connecting them with necessary resources. Without this support, school counselors like myself will be unable to do our job effectively, and many may be forced to leave the career.

School social workers are a vital part of the support network in our schools. They work collaboratively with school counselors, teachers, and administrators to provide social, emotional, and mental health support to students. They also provide critical support to families who are facing challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity. By connecting families with community resources, school social workers help to ensure that students have the stability and support they need to succeed in school.

If school social workers are defunded, school counselors will be unable to do their job effectively. As counselors, we work closely with social workers to identify students who are in need of support and to develop intervention plans to address their needs. Without this support, we will be unable to provide the level of care and support that our students require.

Furthermore, defunding school social workers will likely result in many school counselors leaving the profession. We entered this career because we are passionate about helping students and their families. If we are unable to provide the level of support that our students require, many of us will be forced to leave the profession, resulting in a significant loss of expertise and experience in our schools.

In conclusion, I strongly support the proposed budget increase to support school social workers. The work they do is essential to ensuring that all students have the support and resources they need to succeed in school and in life. Without this support, school counselors like myself will be unable to do our job effectively, and many may be forced to leave the career. Thank you for your consideration.