

Rhonda Weigelt
School Counselor
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February 10, 2025

House Education Committee

Subject: Testimony Regarding House Bill 1449

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1449 as written, which would alter the current requirement for schools to make a reasonable effort to have one full-time school counselor for every 300 students in grades seven through twelve. I oppose this bill because school counselors provide a unique and essential service that cannot be replaced by other school personnel.

School counselors play a vital role in supporting students' academic, career, and social-emotional development. Reducing or eliminating the expectation for schools to maintain a reasonable counselor-to-student ratio would negatively impact the quality of support students receive. Other school personnel, while valuable in their respective roles, do not have the specialized training and ethical framework required to provide comprehensive school counseling services. Without dedicated school counselors, students may lose access to critical mental health support, academic guidance, and postsecondary planning assistance.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at rjweigelt@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Weigelt