

Dear Members of the House Education Committee:

I am writing to you as a pediatric neurologist that cares for children across the state of North Dakota. I am writing to you as a father of young children. I am also writing as an individual who has required mental health support

School counselors have more than a full-time job supporting our children as they learn, grow, and become young adults and contributing members of our communities. The stakes are high, and they weigh on anyone that cares for children in any capacity. This can have a major impact on a person, and the people in this career field are incredible individuals that have a lot of strengths, gifts, and talents; but they are also human beings that have personal needs and struggles, some of those including mental health.

Therefore, it is imperative that we support those that educate and care for our children, for no matter how cliché it is, they are truly our future and that is what we should be investing our resources in.

Sincerely,

James Miles, MD