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February 10, 2025

House Education Committee  
Representative Pat D. Heinert

Subject: Testimony Regarding House Bill 1490

Dear Representative Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to articulate my concerns regarding House Bill 1490. Should this bill be enacted, it would have detrimental effects on school counselors by highlighting their roles while raising serious ethical questions about student confidentiality, potential violations of FERPA, and the guidelines established by the ASCA. Mandating psychological evaluations specifically for counselors is not only also inequitable but undermines the very principle that our educational system should exist free of discrimination.

I firmly believe that the passage of this bill would adversely affect public education and the larger community. Below, I outline three primary reasons for my opposition:

1. **Unintended Consequences for Education:** House Bill 1490 does not adequately address the long-term ramifications related to its provisions. It may lead to harmful effects such as funding cuts to local schools, ultimately impacting students, families, and stakeholders.
2. **Inadequate Oversight and Accountability:** The bill lacks adequate oversight mechanisms, which raises concerns about potential issues such as wasteful spending, the misuse of resources, and insufficient regulation. This deficiency is troubling, as it could pave the way for misallocation of resources that would negatively affect our community.
3. **Negative Impact on School Counselors:** Requiring psychological evaluations for counselors could create a harmful stigma surrounding their professional roles. It sends a message that counselors may not be trustworthy or capable, thereby undermining their authority and effectiveness. This requirement could discourage qualified professionals from entering the field, further decreasing the resources available to students when they need support the most.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider any support for House Bill 1490. As it currently stands, this bill is likely to do more harm than good to our educational community and those who depend on the affected programs and services. I trust that, as our representative, you will consider these concerns and strive for policies that foster positive outcomes for everyone.

Sincerely,

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