

**Angel Lindseth**

**School Counselor**

**President of North Dakota School Counselor Association**

**02/11/2025**

**House Education Committee**

**Pat D. Heinert**

**Subject: Testimony Regarding House Bill 1490**

**Dear Mr. Pat Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,**

I am writing to express our opposition for House Bill 1490 that would enact a new section to chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to required psychological evaluations for school counselors. NDSCA opposes this bill because **House Bill 1490** imposes unnecessary and unjustified requirements on licensed school counselors in North Dakota. The bill mandates that school counselors undergo a **psychological evaluation every two years** and obtain clearance from a licensed psychologist before they can meet privately with students.

This requirement **unfairly targets school counselors**, implying without evidence that they pose a risk to students. **No other licensed educators or school professionals are subjected to similar evaluations**, making this bill both discriminatory and unwarranted.

At a time when **student mental health needs are at an all-time high**, adding bureaucratic obstacles to school counseling services **creates unnecessary delays and undermines the trust** between students and counselors. School counselors are already licensed, trained professionals who adhere to strict ethical and legal standards to ensure student safety.

The **North Dakota School Counselor Association** believes in **protecting student access to professional, confidential counseling** while maintaining the highest professional standards. This bill **does not enhance student safety**—it creates unnecessary barriers that will negatively impact students seeking support.

**We strongly urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1490.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Angel Lindseth**

**NDSCA President**

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