

## **Testimony in Opposition to SB 2105**

Chairperson Hienert and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 2105, which would limit the ability of schools to administer anonymous student surveys related to behavioral health and at-risk behaviors. These surveys are essential tools that allow schools to identify trends in student behavior, including substance use, mental health struggles, and other risk factors affecting our youth.

While no one wants to believe that students are engaging in risky behaviors such as drinking, drug use, or unsafe sexual activity, ignoring these issues does not make them disappear. Schools must have access to this anonymous data to develop effective prevention and intervention programs that promote the well-being of all students. Education is our most powerful tool in addressing risky behaviors and protecting our youth from dangerous situations. To develop meaningful prevention efforts, schools must first understand the challenges students' face, something these surveys help us do.

Importantly, parents already have the option to review and opt their child out of these surveys. If we are serious about fostering a safe and healthy learning environment, we must ensure that schools continue to have the tools necessary to understand and respond to the challenges our youth face.

I urge you to vote against SB 2105 and allow schools to continue gathering critical, anonymous information to better serve our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.