

I am writing in opposition to ND Bill 1490. I am a school counselor in rural ND and the qualifications for me to achieve this goal has been a grueling process. Becoming a school counselor is not an easy task. The self-reflection and constant supervision someone is under during the schooling process should rule anyone out of the profession that would not respect the position or privileges that come with it. If this is something we truly are considering in our schools, we should look at all staff members in each building and what the implementation of this would actually look like to begin with. There are individuals in the building with less mentors, training, etc., they may fall through the cracks more easily. However, each school has their own screening and hiring process that should help rule out these unsafe individuals for our children.