



February 12, 2020

Dear legislators:

On behalf of nearly 800 licensed school counselors, the Minnesota School Counselors Association (MSCA) urges your support of HF1231/SF580.

As you may be aware, private and home schools can contract with public schools for school counseling services, but only for services that apply to grades 7-12. HF1231/SF580 would fund the extension of these services to private and home-schooled elementary-aged children that contract with public schools.

Our counselors are seeing a disturbing increase in the challenges that our youngest learners face in and out of the classroom that threaten their immediate and long-term success. MSCA believes it's critical to ensure that all elementary students have access to proper emotional, social and educational support. We know that early identification and intervention is more effective than waiting for challenges to mount in a student's life.

As the state's leading advocates for school counseling, we support HF1231/SF580, as it will go a long way to ensure that more of our state's youngest learners have access to the support they need to fully achieve success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marguerite Ohrtman".

Marguerite Ohrtman
President, Minnesota School Counselors Association
president@mnschoolcounselors.org