

Committees:

Insurance
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Boards and Commissions:

Ohio Latino Affairs
Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community
Development

Jessica E. Miranda

State Representative

Thank you Chairwoman Lehner, Vice-Chairman Brenner, and Ranking Member Fedor and Members of the Senate Education Committee for having sponsor testimony on HB 367.

HB 367 will ensure that a concrete job description, based on the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) standards, is included in the Revised Code. As Ohio is grappling with alarming gun violence rates, staggering opioid overdose rates, and all-time highs in a variety of mental health issues in our kids, this bill serves as a step towards a real solution for all Ohio communities.

Students around the state and nation are having to deal with seriously traumatic events in their lives, events that sometimes occur in our very schools. School Counselors are a part of the resources we have to support student's mental, emotional, and physical well-being. However, by assigning our counselors administrative tasks, we overwork and diminish our best resource.

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While this bill certainly won't solve all our needs concerning mental, emotional, and physical safety at schools, a universal job description would increase the success of our students and allow our counselors to do the work they are in schools to do. We see this bill as an excellent opportunity to join the sincere appetite for improvements regarding mental health and wrap around services in the State of Ohio.

I want to thank my wonderful joint-sponsor, Rep. Manchester, for introducing this legislation with me. And thanks to the Ohio School Counselor's Association (OSCA), who represent our amazing school counselors, for bringing this legislative need to my attention.