

Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee
Nov. 30, 2022
Written Testimony on HB 509
[Mark Fechheimer]

Chairman Johnson and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 509.

All fields of business and medicine can suffer from stagnation and complacency. The mindset of doing what you have always done so that you may get what you have always gotten has led too many into a fear of change, because change can mean loss. The opposite has caused just as many problems. Change without thorough forethought for the extended consequences of one's actions, especially when there is no foreseeable path to put things back as they were, or allowances written into the change that can leave room for outliers or accommodations for those that are true exceptions to the rule. Simply put, if your bill were allowed to pass as is 6 months ago, I would probably have spent the rest of my life undiagnosed with ASD. I have been in counseling off and on for almost 20 years and have seen or met with psychiatrists, psychologists, and counselors. Because I am 52, I have always been paired up with people that are age equivalent and because they are well established, they tend to do what they have always done and I get what I have always gotten. Purely because of my communication with a school psychologist who also has private practice license, I was able to schedule testing and verify a diagnosis I have struggled with my entire life. Because I was able to meet and be tested by someone you are actively trying to remove from the setting in which I met them, I am compelled to beg you to do more due diligence before you change the current law in a way that will make these counselors less effective by removing them from a venue where they meet different clients.

Sincerely,
Mark Fechheimer