Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
April 15th, 2026
Ohio School Counselor Association
House Bill 59 – Proponent Testimony

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 59 on behalf of the Ohio School Counselor Association (OSCA). My name is Keith Vukasinovich, I am a school counselor, and I serve on the Government Relations Committee for the Ohio School Counselors Association.

I am here to offer support for a provision in House Bill 59 that would modify required career training professional development under the law. A provision was added to the law in 2023 requiring school counselors' grades 7-12 to complete four hours of professional development in the construction trades developed by ACT Ohio that must be completed at a building and construction trades training facility. OSCA finds this required training, that must be completed every five-year renewal cycle, overly restrictive.

While OSCA would support the requirement being repealed, we understand the legislature's desire to have career professional development codified. The language in HB 59 continues to retain that all school counselors grades 7-12 during their initial licensure period will receive the ACT Ohio building trades training, but would no longer require that training for every five-year renewal cycle. In its place, the bill adds additional flexibility for counselors to engage in expanded career development that focuses on expanded in-demand careers and student opportunities.

School counselors who have taken the ACT Ohio training report that while the training was valuable and informative it would not be needed every renewal cycle and would become repetitive. The requirement for this specific training also is not reflective of the wide range of possible careers available to their students.

Career planning and development is one of the 3 domain areas of a strong school counseling program. School counselors are often the ones arranging career days, as well as connecting students to career planning resources. They manage college credit plus and work with local ESCs to ensure students have a variety of tools to explore their post high school pathways. The newly proposed language allows school counselors to seek professional development opportunities in a range of in demand careers that will appeal to a broader range of students.

I thank the committee for their consideration and hope you will support this change to reduce an occupational licensure burden for Ohio school counselors. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.