



Office of Senator Willis E. Blackshear Jr.
State Senator

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Health Committee thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on SB 121 To Designate April as Counseling Awareness Month.

As we work toward the goal of destigmatizing mental health, it is important to recognize the role that counseling plays in helping individuals work through difficult life situations and mental health challenges. Dedicated professionals can offer personalized care to people dealing with a variety of mental health conditions and teach them coping skills to effectively manage their situation.

In putting forward this bill I hope we can shine light on the importance of counseling and commit to make counseling more affordable and accessible for Ohioans. Furthermore, I want to highlight the need to attract young individuals to become counselors to help meet the increased demand we have seen over recent years.

April was originally designated as Counseling Awareness Month by the American Counseling Association in 2002. So today, please join me in codifying April as Counseling Awareness Month in Ohio.

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Health Committee thank you again for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on SB 121 To Designate April as Counseling Awareness Month.