



Committees:
Insurance, Ranking Member
Technology and Innovation
Transportation and Public Safety
Economic and Workforce Development

Boards, Commissions, & Special Committees:
Ohio Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, Co-Chair
Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
Ohio Aviation and Aerospace Technology
Committee

Jessica E. Miranda

State Representative

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and Members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for having sponsor testimony on House Bill 333. This bill is the same as HB 367 of the 133rd GA, which passed the House with broad support. HB 333 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.

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