



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

## **Ohio Education Association**

### **House Primary and Secondary Education Committee**

#### **House Bill 333 – Proponent Written Testimony**

**November 9, 2021**

Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, my name is Scott DiMauro and I am President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). Thank you for the opportunity to submit HB 333 Proponent written testimony.

HB 333 supports students by emphasizing the value and necessity of core services provided by school counselors. The bill requires the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to make recommendations for a model job description for school counselors that public schools must consider when preparing job descriptions for and assigning duties to school counselors.

The job description recommendations developed by ODE must be based on the standards for school counselors most recently adopted by the State Board of Education and specify that 80% of counselor duties must be direct and indirect services to students and 20% must be program planning school support activities.

Unfortunately, even though school counseling services are becoming increasingly essential to students, many school counselors are being assigned tasks that are non-related to providing these counseling services to students. This practice makes it more difficult for students to access school counseling services, especially when their school building may not have enough counselors to meet existing demand. HB 333 will help to address this problem.

HB 333 takes the additional positive step of requiring at least one ODE employee to serve as a liaison for school counselors across the state.

OEA recommends passage of HB 333.

