

**Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee**  
**Nov. 30, 2022**  
**Written Testimony on HB 509**  
**Jennifer M. Jury**

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

I'm writing in opposition to HB 509, as passing this bill would have serious negative implications for students throughout our state without independent licensed school psychologists. It is extremely alarming and disappointing to myself and fellow school psychologists that this bill is being considered, as this would eliminate many opportunities for students to receive the additional mental health support they so desperately need. We have a mental health crisis in our country and need as many talented professionals as possible to address such needs.

During the past 2+ years of the pandemic, student learning and mental health has been significantly impacted. We are seeing student needs (educational and mental health) that are more complex and severe than ever before. Having an independent license has allowed me to reach MORE students and their families in providing them the guidance and support they require. In private practice, I can devote more time in providing comprehensive services, including psychoeducational evaluations and counseling.

Unfortunately, there is a significant shortage of school psychologists right now in our nation. The effects of this are staggering and highly concerning. By eliminating our independent license, you are further contributing to this crisis. By continuing to have the option to be independently licensed in Ohio, more school psychologists have opportunities for employment here.

I've been independently licensed by the Ohio Board of Psychology for the past 15 years. Having this license has allowed me to further my career through additional professional development opportunities that I would not have access to or be required to receive as a school psychologist licensed by ODE. There is no doubt, I am a better school psychologist because I have this independent license. I've been able to provide a level of service to students that I wouldn't be able to provide with just an ODE license.

Please, for the sake of our students' mental health and learning, allow school psychologists to be independently licensed in Ohio so that we can provide our students with the most comprehensive care they require and deserve.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Jury  
Ohio Board Licensed School Psychologist (SP570)