

Senate Health & Human Services

02/09/2023 01:30 PM

SB23-004 Employment Of School Mental Health Professionals

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Stan Gelb For himself	<p>Distinguished legislators,</p> <p>By seemingly every measure, our young people are under unprecedented stress from COVID, endless gun violence, climate change, economic uncertainty, and the very numerous politicians who constantly lie about our elections and who also routinely lie about all the just stated causes of student stress.</p> <p>Making more mental health professionals available to help our students is an excellent idea.</p> <p>Please vote YES on SB23-004.</p>
Markus Corley For himself	<p>Honorable Senators of the Health and Human Services Committee:</p> <p>I am providing testimony in support of SB23-004 Employment of School Mental Health Professionals.</p> <p>I have experience working in schools providing lifesaving mental health interventions for students. Many children would have died due to mental health issues had I not been there, this is something I am very proud of. The grant/provision I currently work under would not allow me to stay for much longer and the pathway through CDE to become a Licensed School Counselor is inaccessible in many ways. I have my master's in education for curriculum and instruction, a master's in counseling and human Development and am a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Colorado. I also have experience working with the Colorado School Counselor Association enough to understand the desperate need for mental health professionals in schools. I have worked in community mental health for over 6 years and know that LCSW and LPC holding individual through DORA are highly qualified to meet these needs. LPC and LCSW programs are more accessible and would be able to pull people from all over the United States to work in Colorado Schools providing Life-Saving services.</p> <p>-This bill would have a positive short term and long-term economic impact due to the strange requirements for LPC holders to repeat graduate courses under CDE (not including other limiting factors); And long-term effects of students with stronger mental health capabilities contributing positively to the State of Colorado.</p> <p>-Your contributions in supporting this bill toward improving and saving lives would not be overlooked in many professional organizations and constituents. Including the League of Charters Schools, who have already mentioned this bill in their newsletters.</p>
Lydia Waligorski For	Good Afternoon Committee Members.

<p>Clayton Early Learning</p>	<p>Clayton Early Learning supports SB23-004. As one of the largest Head start programs in Colorado, we know children of all ages often struggle to access mental health supports. SB 4, reduces barriers and increases access to trained Mental Health Professionals in our schools.</p> <p>We ask for your support of this important measure.</p> <p>Lydia Waligorski, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy Clayton Early Learning</p>
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