

To: Madam Chair Senator Molly Baumgardner and Senate Education Committee members

From: Tammy Toney

All Saints Catholic School

Para through All Saints Catholic School/ EANS program

Date: March 18, 2024

Madam Chair Baumgardner and members of the committee,

My name is Tammy Toney, and I am currently a Para and parent at All Saints Catholic School. **Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB 2669.**

I am fortunate to work with many amazing students at All Saints Catholic School and have seen firsthand the benefits the mental health workers provide the students. Some of these children are fortunate to have both parents present in the home, but sadly not all are present in their lives. It feels as though some of the children have to raise themselves and younger siblings and this places a huge strain on their mental wellbeing.

Then you have students living in a split household that have parents present but cause disagreement and tension. The idea of not having a mental health worker (nurse or counselor) present on the campus is going to cause disruption among these students. For almost two (4) years, EANS has given our school the opportunity to employ these foundational workers that have brought hope to our children and having this ripped away from them is going to lead to academic destruction.

I have worked with countless students and have seen the progress in their mental health because of these workers. Our school deserves these benefits to protect our children and provide them the services they need.

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee, for allowing me to provide support for HB 2669. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you in this worthy endeavor to protect our children and provide needed services to them. Thank you for your consideration.

Tammy Toney

All Saints Catholic School Para through EANS program

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