

Letters of Support, House Bill 4552

*Improving Career Counseling, Skilled Trade Counseling, and College
Counseling in Michigan*



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May 7, 2015

TO: Michigan House of Representatives

FROM: William S. Dingledine, Jr., Chair, American Institute of
Certified Educational Planners (AICEP)

RE: House Bill #4552

I am writing to express ACEP's strong support for Michigan House Bill #4552.

The mission of AICEP is to increase the professional training and standing of college counselors. We are the only organization that offers a credential to school counselors and it is based on education, experience, and continuing education.

The main point of our credentialing process is the education level of the applicant. We expect at least a Masters in a related field because we feel it is critically important that college counselors have a level of understanding about adolescent development and educational issues. In addition, we expect counselors have a full understanding of various educational options, career choices, financial aid, and other areas that are critical to successful college placement.

We realize the importance of counselors being versed in these areas and there is a pressing need for counselors to really be able to help students become "college literate". Standard counselor training does not include training in all the aspects of the process, and we feel that it is very important for counselors to have that training and experience if they are going to be successful in advising all students in the college process.

We support House Bill #4552 wholeheartedly. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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www.aicep.org

Patrick O'Connor

From: Skelly, Barbara <Barbara.Skelly@gpschools.org>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2015 12:44 PM
To: Patrick O'Connor
Subject: House Bill 4552

I encourage the support of courses in a graduate program for school counselors that expose future counselors to colleges and universities, most especially in their home states and, when possible, around the nation. Tours of campuses, talks with admissions officers and explanations of unique programs really help a counselor know how to recommend colleges to their students.

I also encourage a reduction in case loads above the ACA recommended 250/counselor and a requirement that counselors not be given test administration duties.

Patrick O'Connor

From: WYNN, PATRICE <PATRICE.WYNN@UticaK12.org>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2015 8:19 AM
To: Patrick O'Connor
Subject: I support House Bill 4452

I am in full support of counselors receiving training in college and career counseling. While I am not a counselor, I am a supportive member of the counseling department who assists the students with career and college information. I provide this information to ALL 1380 members of our high school as well as support two junior high schools.

The counselors do not have enough time in their day (with testing and scheduling demands) to see all of the seniors who have questions about colleges. By no means can I replace the counselor, but I can at least serve as the first step to inform our students about college options, selections, applications, etc. so when they can meet with their counselor they can ask informed questions and have a worthwhile discussion. The more that our counselors know about the colleges and in-demand or upcoming careers, the better decisions our students can make about their future.

Patrice Wynn
Career Development Facilitator

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*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ~
Nelson Mandela*

"There isn't a person anywhere who isn't capable of doing more than he thinks he can." Henry Ford

5/7/2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support House Bill 4552 in support of career and college counseling education. Having worked in both secondary guidance and higher education I understand firsthand how important it is for those working with our future workforce to be trained well.

The knowledge required to effectively guide students towards career goals is contained within a specific body. When done well, this body of knowledge must be taught to those dispensing it. There was once a time not long ago when this information was rather common sense. Anyone who works or know others who work in various careers could easily explain the pathways to attain these jobs to our youth. However, today these pathways, like our workforce, has become much more complicated.

I support House Bill 4552 to secure a better future for the state of Michigan. A strong workforce supports our economy, our infrastructure and secures stable, happy lives for current and future Michiganders.

Deren Finks
39221 Woodward Ave.
Unit 815
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Patrick O'Connor

From: Pam G. Kurtz <Kurtz@owosso.k12.mi.us>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2015 8:16 AM
To: Patrick O'Connor
Subject: House Bill 4552

Patrick,

As a Secondary School counselor of over 30 years, I appreciate your work in attempting to improve the educating of school counselors, the interns that I have worked with share they do not receive the experience prior to the internship that provides them the training for career and college advising. Most of the time they are using their personal experience to give the students information. The interns share the lack of skills such as career and college counseling, managing the daily expectations of administrators, teachers, parents and students and understanding that we should not be doing clerical work for administrators is a rude awakening for them. However, until the powers that be can assure counselors their caseload will become realistic, the chaotic nature of counseling in the high school will not change. My counselors cannot afford to leave the building to participate in the career and college counselor workshop. Currently we have 490 students to one counselor and we have 987 students. Should they leave the mountain of parent, student and administrative emails, phone calls and requests would require 3 days to get to all of them.

I know taking these steps are helpful but with our socio-economic environment hovering at the 70% poverty level the social emotional counseling takes precedent. We attempt to participate in the MCAN activities through out the school year and feel we have done a good job with it. As a result of assistance through AmeriCorps workers that service is achieved along with 98% of our students getting their FAFSA completed.

Please continue to encourage MACAC to communicate the crisis I am sure the majority of our secondary schools face education for new counselors is a state and the student to counselor ratio could bring our effectiveness to an all time high because of your efforts.

Pamela G. Kurtz
Department Chair
Student Services Center
Owosso High School
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