## **OSCA Legislative Action Alert**



## <u>Please call/email your State Senator before Tuesday (6/13) at 5PM to prevent a new burdensome school counselor license requirement!</u>

Now that the deadline for senators to submit budget amendments has passed, we still need your help through TUESDAY to make sure members of Senate Leadership know that Ohio school counselors oppose proposed new burdensome license requirements!

Members of Senate Leadership will be reviewing submitted budget amendments this weekend through Tuesday to make final decisions on what is included in the last version of the Senate budget bill. We still need your help ASAP to make sure your Senator knows the importance of including our compromise amendment in the Senate's final version of the budget bill.

If your State Senators is any of the people below (use this link to look up), please call/email their office before Tuesday (6/13) at 5 PM to make your voice heard!

- Matt Huffman
- Kirk Schuring
- Rob McColley
- Theresa Gavarone
- Matt Dolan (Chair of Finance Committee)
- Jerry Cirino (Vice Chair of Finance Committee)

The Ohio Senate has NOT taken out language the House added to the state budget bill requiring school counselors to spend 12 of their initial internship hours on a construction site/training facility learning about building & construction trades careers. The language also requires 4 hours of continuing education every license renewal cycle in this same training. **OSCA** is supportive in general of more training in this area being available, but we are strongly opposed to this being a requirement for all school counselors, especially a requirement for licensure (click here to access a memo outlining our concerns).

Based on information our lobbyist has gathered from senators, the Senate is not willing to take the provisions out entirely, but they are willing to look at making the training optional in some way. Thus, OSCA is working with senators on a compromise.

We need your help ASAP to make sure your Senator knows the importance of including this compromise amendment in the Senate's final version of the budget bill. The final amendment deadline is Friday at NOON. If the compromise is not included, the original language will likely be in the final bill.

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PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO LOOK UP YOUR SENATOR AND CALL OR EMAIL THEIR OFFICE BY FRIDAY ASKING THEM TO SUBMIT THE COMPROMISE AMENDMENT AS PART OF THEIR BUDGET AMENDMENT LIST. BELOW IS SAMPLE LANGUAGE YOU CAN COPY AND PASTE INTO YOUR EMAIL

## **Dear Senator XXX:**

The current budget language on school counselor trades training for licensure is riddled with problems and is unimplementable. Please support the compromise amendment that The Ohio School Counselor Association is working on with members of the Senate. The amendment language will still promote awareness of trades careers without risking school counselor licenses. As a school counselor in your district, I ask you to please submit this compromise amendment as part of your budget amendment list.

You can copy and paste arguments from the <u>memo</u> to add to your email or phone call. Feel free to add in any other additional comments you'd like to further your point.