

**In Support of: House Bill 6045 – Social Workers in Schools**

**House Finance Committee**

**City: Newport**

**April 29, 2025**

Hello, my name is Cindy Monzon. I am in favor of bill HB6045, which aims to increase the number of social workers in schools. My 7-year-old son attends Pell Elementary School in Newport. We arrived in this country in August 2022, and at that time, he was experiencing anxiety and depression. This greatly affected my ability to work because he was not enrolled in daycare or school. My financial resources were not enough to pay for a counselor. Thanks to the help of Conexion Latina, my son was able to receive services from Newport Mental Health and was assigned to MLK School. The adjustment was difficult because the language barrier made it hard for him to communicate with his teachers, but spending time with his counselor helped him adapt much better.

I urge those responsible to support this bill to help all migrant children who come to this country with a dream and in search of protection, so that they can grow up feeling safe and with strong mental health. Thank you very much for your attention.