

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

House Finance Committee

City: Newport

April 29, 2025

My name is Daniela Munoz. I am in favor of bill HB 6045 to increase the number of school social workers. My 6-year-old son attends Pell Elementary School. In 2023, when my son started kindergarten, it was a bit complicated for him because of the language barrier. At the beginning, he had trouble adapting. Throughout the entire 2023-2024 school year, I was constantly at the school meeting with his teachers to talk about my son's progress. We eventually agreed that my son would need to repeat kindergarten when the 2024-2025 school year begins.

Now, my son has adapted to the country, the language, and his new classmates. At the beginning of the year, his teacher was changed, and he was not able to adapt to the new teacher. We had to meet with all of his teachers to request that he return to his 2023-2024 teacher.

The point of sharing this story is to show that all of the teachers worked with him throughout the year, talking to him and motivating him to learn new things. Having a school social worker would also have been very beneficial in helping him adapt to his new environment. I urge this committee to pass HB6045 to help newcomers like my son have a smoother transition in school.