

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Yoselin Reyes Tello, and today, I am here to raise my voice in favor of our children, who deserve an excellent quality of life, by asking you all to pass H6045. Children are the most vulnerable members of society and are also the most precious. As adults, our job is to care for and protect them; we must ensure their well-being since they are the future of our community. At a young age, they are prone to experiencing adversities that affect their health and academic performance in the short or long term. That is why providing them with the tools and strengths necessary to improve their well-being is essential. We must have more social workers in schools since they are highly qualified to help our children with their adversities. These professionals can advise and connect them with organizations that provide resources to improve their issues and concerns. Likewise, having one worker for 250 students helps students have more accessibility to resources to enhance their emotional well-being and academic performance. The lack of workers causes our children to suffer silently, constantly fighting to survive. I was one of those children who suffered in silence. During high school, my ADHD symptoms became stronger. Unfortunately, no one gave me the necessary tools to understand and manage my symptoms. I would have liked to have the essential help to avoid years of fighting. After constantly fighting, a social worker gave me the appropriate tools and helped me enjoy complete well-being. A social worker saved my life, a social worker can save our children! Save our children!

Yoselin Reyes Tello