



February 8, 2023

Dear House Human Services Finance Committee,

North Branch Area Public Schools (NBAPS) partners with Therapeutic Services Agency (TSA) toward the provision of School Linked Behavioral Health (SLBH) services to our students and families, and can attest to the value it brings to our community.

One reason our partnership has been so successful is that we provide space in each of our schools for therapists to meet with students. Maintaining TSA offices in the school district not only provides our families with needed mental health care services, it makes receiving those services convenient for families and students. Prior to this highly successful partnership, students at NBAPS had to travel long distances to receive such care at the cost of valuable classroom time.

NBAPS fully supports the appropriation for SLBH outlined in HF564 and the need to expand these services to students and families across the state. We have a waiting list for services which is evidence that additional funding to provide more therapists will greatly benefit students and families. The community served by our school district, and those of school districts near us, have seen the benefit that convenient access to mental health services provides to families.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Paul".

Sara Paul

Sara Paul, Superintendent ♦ North Branch Area Public Schools  
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