



Dear Chair Youakim and Vice Chair Clardy:

The Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC) would like to support the passage of House File 8 to address a shortage of school counselors and other student support personnel in Minnesota schools. Our members work with students to support their transition to postsecondary education at both two-year and four-year colleges and the current ratio of students to counselors (Minnesota has the 4th largest ratio in the country: <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/getmedia/b9d453e7-7c45-4ef7-bf90-16f1f3cbab94/Ratios-21-22-Alpha.pdf>) does not allow for all students to be supported adequately.

The American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio of 250:1 to adequately support students. Minnesota's current ratio of 570:1 stands in the way of cultivating individual students' mental health, academic progress, and career exploration and preparation. Statistically a college education is still the best investment in a person's long-term financial returns (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dereknewton/2022/07/25/americans-strongly-agree-on-benefits-of-college-degree/?sh=5d9e886e3089>).

Additionally, there are more jobs in our state's economy than there are qualified people to fill them and that trend is projected to continue: <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/mn-lost-90000-workers-during-pandemic-has-one-of-the-tightest-labor-markets-in-the-country/89-1f4b0b5e-60c2-4f75-a57b-f9dd27601bee>.

In order to meet this challenge Minnesota will need to maximize the training and skill usage of all of its citizens and school counselors and other student support personnel play a crucial role in ensuring our high school graduates are prepared for the economic demands of our communities.

For these reasons we are in support of House File 8 to address the shortage of school counselors and other student support personnel in Minnesota's schools.

Sincerely,
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