

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

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HB22-1052 Promoting Crisis Services To Students

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jennifer Smela Amend Colorado School Counselor Association	<p>HB22-1052</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to support the work that COYAC has done in helping to provide mental health resources for youth. There is support of the idea of this bill--asking schools to print MH resources on student ID's. There are details on which we have questions:</p> <p>1) timing of the this bill--could it go into place beginning 2022-2023 school year? Replacement costs of schools having to do ID's now with the information might be seemingly minimal, but if, for instance, we had to re-print ID's for school of 2200 students, the cost would be \$6,600 for this school year, in addition to the cost of setting up a new template. That is a big expense and most schools may not have budgeted for that. Schools may not have the resources to (financially and staff-wise) make that happen for this school year. It is more feasible at the beginning of a school-year when ID's are typically issued. It is more realistic for schools to post printed materials now and plan for ID's next year.</p> <p>2) Many districts already print mental health resources and Safe2Tell information on student ID's. It is my understanding that many students use Safe2Tell for mental health concerns for self and others as well as safety. Is it possible to have both printed? Space is an issue on ID's and it would take time for districts to work with their respective companies that print ID's. The language in the bill would have to be specific enough to name who is responsible for facilitating this (teachers, school counselors, etc. should not be named as responsible parties as ID's are usually managed by office managers or support staff)--generalities tend to get passed around in districts and schools.</p> <p>3) Could Colorado Crisis Center provide a list of their agencies and providers to districts so that schools would know what local agencies students would be referred to? The benefit of Safe2Tell is that a local person connected to the school can follow-up with concerns. That would be helpful to be able to follow-up with students in schools who call the Crisis Line, if necessary. Is the funding for the Crisis Line on-going and sustainable state-wide? (If schools make a commitment to do this, it would be good to know the resource will be there for the foreseeable future)</p> <p>4) This idea is very supported by Colorado school counselors; the more we can provide access to resources and support for students, the better.</p>

	This is a great way to destigmatize knowing about and reaching out for help.
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