

**Dear Representative Moss,**

The Utah School Counselor Association is in support of HB381: Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor.

This bill will help to create more pathways and opportunities for future school counselor candidates to enter our profession, but does so in a way that supports fidelity to licensing credentials and the appropriate specialized higher education that is needed for the profession.

Highlights for why we like HB381:

- The Grow Your Own Program focuses on scholarship opportunities to strengthen school counselor pipelines in Utah - especially in our rural areas where we have school counselor shortages within our schools.
- Candidates are financially supported by this program as they pursue and complete their Bachelor's AND Master's Degree requirements for school counselor licensing.
- This program provides school counselor candidates with authentic and realistic experiences through high-quality mentoring that promotes long-term retention.
- Finally, the Grow Your Own School Counselor program will assist practicing school counselors in their work to support college and career readiness for all students and maintain their comprehensive school counseling programs.

We look forward to the future school counselors who will enter this profession through the support and opportunity that HB381 provides.

Thank you for your work in supporting Utah school counselors. If there is anything else we can do to bring support to this bill for you (testifying on behalf, additional letters, phone calls, etc.) we are happy to do so.

**Best Regards,**

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