



February 9, 2015

Education Standing Committee,

This letter is written to express Utah School Counselor Association's support of HB 198, Strengthening College and Career Readiness, sponsored by Representative Patrice Arent.

As an association, we believe that school counselors are hard-working individuals who do the best they can with the training and information they have. There is additional training available in the area of College and Career Readiness that will provide current counselors with the most updated information they need to provide the best service to students.

As Governor Herbert's PACE initiative states, by 2020, 66% of Utahns need to have post-high school training with a certificate or college degree to make them marketable in the work force of high-pay, high demand jobs. A recent study completed by the Southern Region Educational Board found that of 466 universities offering Masters Degrees in School Counseling only five have a college and career readiness course as a requirement. Two of the five programs are found in Utah (Utah State University and University of Utah masters programs).

Counselors graduating from these programs, within the past 2 years, have some specific training in college and career readiness, but many working counselors have not been as extensively trained and are lacking the most current training in this area. We feel that school counselors can benefit from a certificate that partners with Utah State Office of Education, Utah System of Higher Education, and business and industry to better educate and counsel students towards their future college and career goals.

We are excited about this certificate program and hope that you will support these efforts to Strengthen College and Career Readiness in Utah.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Todd".

Holly Todd
Utah School Counselor Association,
President, 2014-15