



# LEGISLATIVE POSITION MEMO

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers  
Jerry T. Jordan, President

**MAY 16, 2024**

**TO: Members of the General Assembly**

**CC: Hon. Governor Josh Shapiro, Hon. Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid Mumin**

**FROM: Jerry T. Jordan, President**

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HB1665 (Pennsylvania School Counseling Services Act)**

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I am pleased to offer the support of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers for **House Bill 1665**, the **Pennsylvania School Counseling Services Act**. This bill is a commonsense approach to moving our commonwealth forward in its moral (and constitutional) imperative to provide students with the resources and services they need to thrive.

Our union is proud to represent the School District of Philadelphia's hardworking school counselors. Every day, school counselors go above and beyond to provide myriad services for our young people. Their jobs are highly specialized and their expertise is of critical importance in every single school.

But too often, counselors are stretched too thin— with caseloads far exceeding the recommended [threshold of 250:1](#) as recommended by the American School Counselor Association, along with a host of roles and responsibilities that take away from their counseling services, our school counselors need support.

From college counseling to social emotional learning to addressing acute crises and needs, our counselors give it their all each day. I am proud to support HB1665, largely because it is led and supported by counselors themselves and their associated organizations.

I urge elected leaders to prioritize this legislation, which counselors truly believe will help set a minimum standard for regulating their roles and responsibilities—which, in turn, will benefit the young people they serve each day.

Thank you.