

9 October 2018

Bill Proposal

Life Skills Counselor

86th Texas General Legislative Session

Presented by

South Texas Youth Congress

Propose: *A pilot program in fourteen high schools to include in each one special school counselor to work with ISD administration, certified therapists, mental health and social service professionals, and law enforcement authorities. The counselor would work with students who require specific attention to ease and relax tension.*

STYC

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Knowing is not enough; we must apply.
Willing is not enough; we must do.

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

9 October 2018

Mr. Armando Martinez
State Representative District 39
State Capitol
Austin, Texas

-Via email-

Proposal

Who does a student go to, who'll take the time to really listen? Someone to talk to, an adult who is trained to tune in and listen and take appropriate action.

We are teenagers, you have been there in the young years when emotions ran every which way on their journey to grow and form. But for some things go wacky, the water flows over the banks.

In our short life span we have come to know incidences of violence which we believe could have been tamped down. We do walk the hallways of our schools wondering if it could happen here before we get to our next class. We don't like to live this way. It is not healthy, not productive. You like us know that this is not right, not good for society, not good for our humanity.

We want to propose that our schools have a special counselor who we would like to think of as a 'Life Skills' Counselor. Whose core responsibility is to be available to listen to and talk with students whose mental state is troubled to the point where it might lead to belligerent behavior and violence.

We want to be serious contributors to the betterment of our community. We don't believe that arming school staff and vaulting doors and the like to be the answer. We view these as facile reactions, not thoughtful actions. And which are probably more costly all around than a 'Life Skills' Counselor.

Perhaps the counselor could use journaling as a technique where a student can write things which might be disturbing without being thought of as disturbed. Often this process releases pinned up anxieties and frustrations, relaxes and eases tension.

Being seen as a problem separates students from being seen as part of the solution. For now, our power is our voice and soon it will be our vote. As elected officials you have the power to enact change.

Your actions are bound up with our destiny.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of STYC members.

Daya Butler

STYC President
Senior W.B. Ray HS
Corpus Christi, Texas

Alexa Casares

STYC Vice President
Senior BETA HS
Edinburg, Texas

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