Dear **[LEGISLATOR]**,

As a constituent and a School Psychologist, I am contacting you to strongly encourage your support on a number of bills related to education that will directly impact the students I work with, and across our state. I specifically encourage you to consider the following:

**Support SB 5821** – If passed, this bill would provide equitable bonuses to Educational Staff Associates, such as myself, who continue to attain and renew national certification through our respective professional organizations. I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), which reflects my graduate-level education, as well as my commitment to continued professional development to ensure that I complete my best work in support of our students. I renew this credential every three years with over 75 documented clock hours, including a minimum of three clock hours of ethics and legal training. Approval of this bill would also attract other qualified professionals from outside of Washington state, which would alleviate our statewide shortage of school psychologists, and would benefit students in our district and across the state. This bill is currently in the Senate Committee for Early Learning and K-12 Education; I encourage you to support this bill if brought to a vote.

**Support SB 5315 –** If passed, this bill would provide allocation for districts to fund additional school nurses, social workers, school counselors, and school psychologists. With one in five students in public schools presenting with a diagnosable mental health condition, an increase in these positions is absolutely critical for students to access their basic education. The National Association of School Psychologists’s (NASP) recommended ratio is one school psychologist to 500-700 general education students. The average ratio in Washington state is one school psychologist to over 1100, and my personal ratio is **[NAME YOUR GEN ED STUDENT RATIO HERE]**. It is imperative to our students and our future as a state to increase funding for these positions. This bill is currently in the Senate Committee for Early Learning and K-12 Education; I encourage you to support this bill if brought to a vote.

**Support SSB 5082 –** If passed, substitute senate bill 5082 would result in the adoption of social-emotional learning (SEL) benchmarks developed by an OSPI work group that included a school psychologist, which would build awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships, and making responsible decisions that support success in school and life. In my day-to-day role as a school psychologists, I see how critical it is not only for our students to be able to learn social and emotional skills to interact with peers and staff, but also to be able to access their academic and career-readiness education. Studies have shown that these “soft skills” are often what employers and universities are looking for, more than academic competence. Furthermore, we know that having solid self-regulation is one of the best predictors of personal life satisfaction and being a productive member of society. This bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means; I encourage you to support this bill if brought to a vote.

Please reach out to me or the Washington State Association of School Psychologists (WSASP) for more information about my training or practice as a school psychologist in Washington State.

Sincerely,

**[YOUR NAME]**