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As a school counselor for the past 10 years, I am very concerned with the proposed certification changes for school counselors. As I look at the changes being proposed and I reflect on my role and the situations that I have been presented and involved in over the past week, I wonder who in the building will do what I have done for all students. From being elected the district SRBI (Scientific Research Based Intervention) contact, I have been involved in facilitating the roll out and implementation of SRBI at all levels to ensure that all students are provided the appropriate level of intervention at a time when they need them, to helping a new student and her parents transition to public education after being home schooled for her entire school career, to working out issues within a peer group directly around relational aggression, to consulting with an outside therapist on an appropriate plan for a student who is school phobic, to co-teaching a lesson with one of the unified arts teachers on the topic of career exploration and learning styles, and finally, to facilitating a group of 14 staff members on the next steps for our school-wide student advisory program I become even more concerned.

If the changes being proposed come to fruition and I am limited in doing what I have been trained to do, the majority of my students and parents will be at a disadvantage. Above all, it would not be possible for me to continue doing all that I mentioned previously if these changes go into effect. If my role becomes one where I am expected to administer diagnostic assessments and interpret the results for the purposes of determining eligibility, as stated in Sec. 10-145d-922 (b), as well as facilitating the planning and placement team process which may include, but is not limited to case management as defined in Sec. 10-145d-922 (f).