

Date: _____

To: Senator Shirley K. Turner
Chair Senate Education Committee
1440 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ 08618

Re: **Bill S432: Modifies reference from “substance awareness coordination” to “student assistance coordinator” in substance abuse programs in public schools.**

Dear Honorable Senator Turner:

I would like to take this opportunity to request your support for passage of Bill S432, modifying the name of “Substance Awareness Coordinator” to “Student Assistance Coordinator.” Currently, this title is found in the New Jersey Statutes 18A:40A-18.

As the position of Substance Awareness Coordinator has evolved since its inception in 1987, the substance awareness coordinator is responsible for establishing and implementing substance awareness programs within the school district, continuing education for staff, students and community as well as addressing the individual needs of students and families.

In September 2003, NAMI (The Nation’s Voice on Mental Illness) reported that roughly 50 percent of individuals with severe mental disorders are affected by substance abuse. Along with many other studies, it has become increasingly evident over the last 19 years that the field of substance abuse has broadened its scope to include mental health, family and community issues that either effect or affect adolescent substance abuse.

Substance awareness coordinators will continue to address these needs of our adolescents. I feel that a change in title would more adequately reflect an accurate scope of practice and present a more positive title to school districts, students, families and in my community.

Thanking you for your time,

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

County of Residence _____

Date: _____

To: Craig A. Stanley - Chair Assembly Education Committee
1200 Clinton Avenue
Suite 140
Irvington, NJ 07111

Re: **Bill A2503: Modifies reference from “substance awareness coordination” to “student assistance coordinator” in substance abuse programs in public schools.**

Dear Honorable Assemblyman Stanley:

I would like to take this opportunity to request your support for passage of Bill A2503 modifying the name of “Substance Awareness Coordinator” to “Student Assistance Coordinator.” Currently, this title is found in the New Jersey Statutes 18A:40A-18.

As the position of Substance Awareness Coordinator has evolved since its inception in 1987, the substance awareness coordinator is responsible for establishing and implementing substance awareness programs within the school district, continuing education for staff, students and community as well as addressing the individual needs of students and families.

In September 2003, NAMI (The Nation’s Voice on Mental Illness) reported that roughly 50 percent of individuals with severe mental disorders are affected by substance abuse. Along with many other studies, it has become increasingly evident over the last 19 years that the field of substance abuse has broadened its scope to include mental health, family and community issues that either effect or affect adolescent substance abuse.

Substance awareness coordinators will continue to address these needs of our adolescents. I feel that a change in title would more adequately reflect an accurate scope of practice and present a more positive title to school districts, students, families and in my community.

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