

**SUPPORT HB 1355**

**(Effective CTC Counseling)**

AFT Washington is seeking to establish **counseling standards and ratios** at the Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs) to better serve our students.

**What We’re Asking**

We are seekingminimum standards that define what faculty counselors in the CTCs do and what constitutes a qualified counselor by:

* **Requiring all campuses have counselors** to help every student succeed;
* **Ensuring counselors are qualified** with the right credentials, experience, and education; and
* **Establishing a supportive environment** that helps students meet their goals by requiring a maximum ratio of one counselor to 900 students.

**Why We’re Asking**

1. ***Students aren’t receiving the help they need***
* The current statewide ratio is nearly one counselor to 1,900 students, according to a recent survey.
1. ***Years of defunding mean that there are too few counselors to meet students’ needs***
	* This keeps students from getting consistent counseling, no matter where they go to school.
2. ***Student needs are multifaceted***
	* Students’ lives are complex with competing responsibilities – qualified counselors help students navigate their career preparation, personal challenges, and life stressors, increasing student success.

For more information, please contact Sandra Toussaint, AFT Washington Political Organizer by e-mail stoussaint@aftwa.org or by phone 206-427-8107.

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