

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-186

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
4 INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION STUDY THE CURRENT STATUS OF  
5 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE NEED  
6 FOR ADDITIONAL PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES IN PUBLIC  
7 SCHOOLS.

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9 WHEREAS, mental health services provided in the public school setting  
10 provide much needed assistance to students; and

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12 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has noted the importance of a safe public  
13 school environment by passing legislation addressing antibullying in public  
14 schools and suicide awareness and prevention programs; and

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16 WHEREAS, positive behavior supports provided as a component of a  
17 comprehensive mental health services program in public schools has been  
18 successful in addressing social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students;  
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
22 Department of Human Services, should:

23 (1) Encourage public school districts to integrate both early  
24 intervention and preventions programs into school improvement plans;

25 (2) Adopt standards for alternative learning programs utilized by  
26 students with social, emotional, or behavioral needs;

27 (3) Identify additional resources that can be utilized by public  
28 schools in:

29 (A) Developing and implementing suicide prevention,  
30 antibullying, and antiviolence programs; and

31 (B) Identifying students with symptoms of social, emotional, and  
32 behavioral needs, including prevention mechanisms; and

33 (4) Identify potential sources of funding for enhanced mental health  
34 services provided in public schools; and

1           WHEREAS, the general well-being and academic success of Arkansas  
2 students struggling with mental health issues will be significantly improved  
3 if the mental health services provided in public schools receive the time,  
4 attention, and funding support needed to comprehensively address the needs of  
5 Arkansas students.

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7 NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE EIGHTY-  
9 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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11           THAT the interim Senate Committee on Education and the interim House  
12 Committee on Education study the current status of mental health services  
13 provided in public schools and the need for additional prevention and  
14 intervention services in public schools.

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16 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Senator Johnny Key

21 District 1  
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26 By: SAG/KFW  
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