

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997  
4 By: Representative Wilkins

H.R. 1032

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO  
CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF INITIATING  
A SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELING SERVICE TO BE DEVELOPED JOINTLY  
BY THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

### Subtitle

REQUESTING THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO  
DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF INITIATING  
A SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELING SERVICE TO BE  
DEVELOPED JOINTLY BY THE DIVISION OF  
MENTAL HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, school-based counseling services have numerous advantages as  
compared to traditional counseling approaches; and

WHEREAS, because schools are part of the everyday lives of children and  
the efficacy of counseling services is increased when services are integrated  
into everyday settings, schools have the potential to be a venue whereby  
access to mental health services is more readily available to parents and  
children. In addition, parents and children are more likely to keep  
appointments; and

WHEREAS, schools are ideologically compatible with the steps that should  
be taken in counseling children and families because they emphasize developing  
competence and reducing barriers to learning; and

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2 WHEREAS, schools can be powerful factors, both negatively and positively  
3 in childrens mental health and school-based counseling services can be  
4 important elements in creating school environments that are healthy and safe  
5 for children in general and for children with emotional disturbances in  
6 particular; and

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8 WHEREAS, research shows that families now often lack available help when  
9 they are having "normal" crises and the counseling service system generally  
10 has failed to respond to this important change in family life. Because of a  
11 school's universality and the relative lack of stigma associated with services  
12 provided within the school, school-based services are one way that the gap in  
13 counseling service delivery can be filled. By so doing, relief can be given  
14 to children and families in general, and families "on the edge" can be  
15 prevented from developing more serious problems; and

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17 WHEREAS, early adolescence is a time when serious problems often begin  
18 to appear and entry into middle school or junior high school can be associated  
19 with increased depression and decreased achievement motivation; and

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21 WHEREAS, a number of mental health problems of serious social  
22 importance, such as conduct disorders, are especially prevalent during the  
23 high school years, and some chronic adult mental illnesses often first appear  
24 at that time; and

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26 WHEREAS, the case now appears sufficiently strong for school-based  
27 services to be provided at all school levels.

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30 NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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34 That the House of Representatives requests the House Interim Committee  
35 on Education to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of initiating a

1 school-based counseling service to be developed jointly by the Division of  
2 Mental Health of the Department of Human Services and the Department of  
3 Education.

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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7 That the results of the study, including any legislative  
8 recommendations, shall be reported to the Legislative Council no later than  
9 September 1, 1998.

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