



## Advocacy Letters

To maximize impact, keep the following advice in mind when drafting your letter:

### **Keep it Brief**

Aim for one page or less.

### **Focus Your Message**

Select specific issues impacting your students (e.g., student mental health, education funding, immigration policy).

### **Highlight Key Points**

Choose the three strongest points that will be most effective in persuading legislators to support your position.

### **Personalize Your Story**

Dedicate one paragraph to a real, data-driven example illustrating how school social work has made a difference or what challenges you see.

### **Be Specific with the Ask**

Mention the specific bill or funding request whenever possible.

### **Align the Subject Line**

Match the subject line to your specific "ask" or issue.

### **Maintain Respect:**

Always be respectful, as relationships are vital in advocacy.

# Letter Template

**Subject (example if emailing):** Support School Social Workers and Student Mental Health in Minnesota Schools

**[Date]**

**The Honorable [Legislator's Full Name]  
[Minnesota House or Senate]  
[Office Address]**

Dear **[Representative/Senator] [Last Name]**,

I am writing to you as a school social worker in **[city/district]**, and a member of the Minnesota school community. I work directly with students, families, and educators every day to support student well-being, mental health, and academic success.

School social workers play a critical role in addressing students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs. We provide mental health support, crisis intervention, family engagement, and connections to community resources—often serving as a bridge between schools, families, and outside systems of care.

Across Minnesota, students are experiencing increasing levels of stress, anxiety, trauma, and unmet mental health needs. School social workers are uniquely trained to respond to these challenges, yet many schools face barriers such as high caseloads, limited funding, and staffing shortages that make it difficult to meet student needs effectively.

I urge you to **[support/oppose/consider] [specific bill, policy, or funding request]**, which would help strengthen student mental health supports and ensure that schools have access to qualified school social workers. Investing in school social work services is an investment in student success, school safety, and stronger communities.

From my experience, **[brief personal example—1–2 sentences about how school social work has made a difference or what challenges you see]**. These experiences highlight why continued legislative support for school-based mental health services is so important.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Minnesota's students and schools. I would welcome the opportunity to share more about my work or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

**[Your Full Name, Credentials]**

**School Social Worker, [School/District]**

**[City, Minnesota]**

**[Optional: Member, Minnesota School Social Workers Association]**