

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

April 21, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

During this legislative session, we have successfully worked together to bring more innovation to education, expanding opportunities in personalized and work-based learning for Montana students.

As we continue working toward increasing innovation in education, I thank Representative Anderson for his thoughtful efforts with House Bill 458 to get career coaches into more schools to support students in their educational and career endeavors. Career coaches help students obtain valuable, insightful experiences through internships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities.

House Bill 458 provides a definition for career coaches, including required education or work experience for school districts to hire them. House Bill 458 provides clarity for districts that a career coach does not have to be a licensed school counselor or educator.

I appreciate the intent of the bill. As currently written, however, the legislation can be improved to prevent an increase in regulations and red tape that will unnecessarily saddle school districts.

Therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby return with amendments House Bill 458: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO CAREER COACHES; PROVIDING A DEFINITION OF CAREER COACH; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR A CAREER COACH; AND AMENDING SECTION 20-1-101, MCA."

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As currently written, House Bill 458 requires the Office of Public Instruction to certify career coaches, an obstacle that does not exist under current law. A new state certification requirement will create red tape and hurdles for districts seeking to hire career coaches.

The amendment I offer proposes striking references to certification while maintaining the overall substance and intent of the bill.

For this reason, I respectfully ask for your support of this amendment.

I appreciate the sponsor's work on House Bill 458 and his support of the amendments I offer.

Amending House Bill 458 will eliminate unnecessary red tape for our school districts and ensure districts can get career coaches more quickly and efficiently into our schools to better prepare our students for their future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Greg Gianforte
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State