

**House Bill 1234 - UNFAVORABLE**  
**Ways and Means Committee**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

Please give House Bill 1234, regarding allowing chaplains to serve as aides in public schools, an Unfavorable report.

Not only is it not the place of the public school system to allow religious leaders to counsel students, it's blatantly unConstitutional. Just read the first amendment. Allowing chaplains into the public schools to serve as "aides" would be an obvious endorsement of religion. Even if the chaplain was nondenominational, chaplains provide counseling and spiritual guidance. There are no definitions of "chaplain" in this bill, just as there are no parameters for what a chaplain would do as an aide in a public school. What are the "support services" that a chaplain, specifically, would offer?

If I was a chaplain and allowed in the schools to provide "support services," a large amount of my support would be in the form of affirming the LGBTQ+ students by telling them that anti-LGBTQ+ religions are wrong. I'd also provide "support services" by providing LGBTQ+ students with information about affirming groups, ways to deal with anti-LGBTQ+ parents, and possibly even counseling about how to become emancipated and find a loving, accepting home to live in. And of course I'd counsel pregnant students on how to access abortion. Actually, that sounds like a good use of my time. I think I'll look into becoming a chaplain now. Thanks! I see that the Satanic Temple has a chaplain program, and will have their ministers volunteer in Iowa schools if that state's chaplain bill passes. I guess I'll start recruiting others for this fine calling.

In malicious compliance,

Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, MD