
BARR BOARD MEMBER

Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair
Education Finance
January 31, 2023

Dear Chair Kunesh and Education Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express support for SF 494 which will bring the BARR system to more Minnesota schools, something I strongly believe in.

I am a past president of the Minnesota School Counselors Association and my last position before my retirement from more than four decades in education was serving as Assistant Principal at Eden Prairie High School.

From my experience in education, I know the critical importance of having systems in place to support school staff - counselors, social workers, psychologists, deans, and administrators – that work each and every day to support student wellness and mental health. I joined BARR Center's Board of Directors because I'm passionate about making sure that more schools can benefit from BARR's systemic approach to supporting the whole child, and allow teachers and mental health staff to see and support the success of each and every student – no matter their race, ethnicity, or zip.

I urge you to include BARR as part of the governors and legislatures plan to make Minnesota the best state in the country for kids to grow up with schools where all students have an equal opportunity to succeed.

I am grateful to Senator Putnam for taking up this important issue. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

Please support SF 494. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gail Toatley
Member, BARR Center Board of Directors
Retired Assistant Principal, Eden Prairie High School
Past President, Minnesota School Counselors Association