

Written Testimony of

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Before the Education Committee

HB 5378 AAC THE INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN PROGRAMS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS IN CONNECTICUT.

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As a Kindergarten teacher, it is so important for our students to have proper social emotional learning. The students need to be taught about feelings, dealing with feelings, and also how to calm their bodies when their feelings are too strong. Our school has been using the Choose Love program but it is voluntary and we need something mandated by the state. This is a fabulous program written by a person in Connecticut, we should look into it state wide. New Hampshire has adopted it state wide, Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Another aspect of the social emotional learning is changing the cut off date of kindergarten. Some of our children with December birthdays are so young they are not ready for the full day and the stresses that come with learning. The state needs to look at moving the date to September 1st. I have taught in many other states and all either have a September cut off or have moved it back.

Please consider the testimony of the teachers who are working to make our children ready for the world. We need to do better by them at this young age!

