

Written Testimony of

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Before the Education Committee

**HB 6557 AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**

March 8, 2021

Good afternoon Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

Students in trauma disrupt the classroom environment year after year. Their anger is lashed out at fellow students as violence and verbal bullying. Sadly, the students become entrained in the behaviors and often begin to incorporate them in their own lives or move into fear based lying to protect themselves from retaliation. Keeping a peaceful environment in the classroom has become more and more challenging over the years.

Cuts in school funding have reduced the staff and services available to help students in trauma. Additionally, since trauma starts in the home, breaking the cycle of trauma is incredibly difficult as the perpetrators of the trauma are a constant in the child's life. The family needs to be trained and monitored and that's where denial enters the picture. Parents do not want to admit that there is any problem.

Finally, classrooms become more violent as traumatized children act out. Teachers and students are at risk of injury.

I have had students throw chairs at me, been hit by students, and have had students use inappropriate language. No one needs to go to work and get injured.