

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.

As teaching becomes more challenging every year, this year has by far topped the charts on behaviors as a direct result of social and emotional learning gaps. In my first grade classroom, I am screamed at, kicked, bit or flat out disobeyed. I have two students whose entire goal is to stay in the classroom because that is the biggest obstacle. When getting 1-1 attention, they are better, but not great. Both are extremely immature and will not even attempt the work because of fear that is might be too hard. In a classroom with 22 students, I have had to have conversations with administrators that, for the first time in my career, I do not feel like I can keep the majority of my students safe because of 1 students unpredictable, destructive behavior. Students are now being targeted for something as small as the other student wants the color marker they are using. At no fault to the administration, but little support is offered. I get assistance when these students leave the classroom, but when they are in the room, I am left to fend for myself. I feel changing kindergarten age requirement and class sizes are huge factors that would help take some of the stress away from these extremely young learners.

Something must change because in an environment like this, NO student is learning.