

Written Testimony of

Jennifer Babb

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.

My name is Jennifer Babb, and I am an elementary art teacher. I have been a teacher for 16 years now in a Title 1 District. There are so many things I can share but something that stands out the most was when I was slapped in the face by a primary student last February. As upset as I was at the time, I can see now how much help and support that student needed that he was not getting because of our extreme lack of resources. If we had a full-time social worker, perhaps things would have been different. If we had a full-time guidance counselor perhaps it may have helped. If he did not have to spend time taking standardized tests that were overwhelming for him maybe that would have helped. He could have used strategies to help him cope with his frustration and anger. He could have used specific interventions to assist him. He had many incidents before what happened with me. They were dealt with the best that his teacher and the school could do with the resources that we have. We need so much more!! He could have been helped earlier. Now both him and I have something traumatic to deal with that we will never forget. And this was last year. Before the pandemic and the shutdown. Now students need these supports more than ever. Please consider passing HB 6557. Thank you.