

Testimony of

Chiara Ferraro

Vernon Educator

Before the

Public Health Committee & Committee on Children

Re:

HB 5001 - AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

February 25, 2022

This year has been my most difficult one of the past 19 as an elementary education teacher. 40% of my students are seriously affected by family trauma (abandonment, violence, foster care), poverty, homelessness, or mental health problems. We have 482 students in our Prek to 5th grade school. We have two social workers (one dedicated to a special program), one psychologist, and one school climate specialist. We are overwhelmed.