

*Testimony of*

**Cynthia Boyle**

Winchester Educator

Before the

**Public Health Committee & Committee on Children**

Re:

**HB 5001 - AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

February 25, 2022

I cannot tell you how much teaching has changed in the last 22 years!

Currently there is the saddest situation with students I have ever seen. Since COVID, parents are not supporting teaching and learning nearly at the level they were before the pandemic. Every single one of my students has some form of trauma in their lives. These little ones, grade 3, are dealing with issues that surpass their emotional abilities. Someone needs to help and put that as the focus of their day. IF NOT OUR GOVERNMENT, THEN WHO?

The fact that we are still pushing for academic growth is a travesty of our generation, and soon to be of theirs. Please help these students to be less concerned about academics, parents to be more concerned, and teachers to have the freedom to care for the WHOLE CHILD.

Make the brave choice!! We need as many social workers and counselors as you can possibly give us. Plus, for teachers it feels as if we are being mistreated, we need more planning time than ever, not less. We are shouldering more responsibilities than ever!