

*Testimony of*  
**Katy Reddick**  
Region 13 Educator  
Before the  
**Education Committee**

Re:

**SB 1 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS.**

March 21, 2022

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

Thank you for holding this public hearing to discuss mental health supports for our students. I support the many provisions in HB 5001 and SB 2 that address the student mental health crisis in our schools, especially those relating to staffing support and ensuring classroom teachers have greater input in resources available to students in crisis.

The proposed legislation enhances the recruitment and staffing of social workers but, for the sake of our students, I want to ensure that these provisions will also apply to school counselors, psychologists, special educators, and other certified specialists.

What You Don't See, but as an educator, I see every day, is the impact that trauma has on my students and my school.

Our students are hurting: they have lost loved ones during the pandemic and have been told that adults don't care about them because either they are not willing to wear masks or because they are forcing them to wear masks. In addition, as a country we are deeply polarized around issues of equity and diversity. The aggression directed against teachers is making it harder than ever for teachers to be leaders. Most teachers are not trained in trauma informed education and all of our schools are suffering from a shortage of mental health professionals. Our administrators, guidance counselors, social workers, and psychologists only have enough time for triage and not to help heal the deep rifts in our students' psyches.

Thank you for addressing these critical issues impacting our students, our educators, and our school communities.