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Testimony of
Ray Rossomando
Connecticut Education Association
Before the
Committee on Children

Re:

**SB 2 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL
WELLNESS OF CHILDREN**

February 21, 2023

Representative Linehan, Senator Maher, and members of this esteemed committee, my name is Ray Rossomando. I am the Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents educators in over 150 school districts across Connecticut.

CEA supports SB 2 and the state's ongoing efforts to provide resources to children experiencing mental health challenges.

CEA supports the provision of behavioral health assistance for children and their affected families, as well as the use of suicide risk assessments. Earlier this session, CEA testified in support of HB 6543 AAC Medicaid Reimbursement for Mental Health and Suicide Risk Assessments Conducted at School-Based Health Centers and Insurance Coverage for the Provision of Mental Health Wellness Examinations.

CEA also supports the concept of sanctuary libraries that reject censorship and protect the freedom to read. We believe such freedoms should be protected in our classrooms too. As educators, we believe that quality teaching and learning can best occur in an atmosphere that allows freedom of inquiry, appropriate material selection, and sound teaching techniques. We support policies and procedures that provide for the reasonable and objective consideration of instructional materials and teaching techniques without censorship or interference. Protecting our libraries from interference sets a tone that can, and should, extend to our schools and communities as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.