

Chair. Members of the committee.

My name is Peter Eckhoff and I am president of the Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers. I am here to testify in support of this bill. I want to begin by telling you what our kids need from our teachers perspective.

This past year 380 educators took a Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Our goal was to find what was impacting student success, what students and educators needed and the professional development that teachers needed to better serve their students. Here are some of our findings.

The first question on the needs assessment asked educators to indicate the level of impact the certain issues have on student success in your school?

Over 80% of our educators said that student's mental health was having a high impact on student success.

80% of our teachers felt that student behavior in the classroom was having a high impact on student success.

And nearly 84% said that Adverse Childhood Experiences were having an impact on students being successful.

We know what is impacting success.

And the needs follow those impacts. 80% of our teachers say that more mental health care is very needed for students. Students need more caring adults in their lives. They need smaller class sizes.

80% say it is very needed. But after years and years of saying that our teachers need more social workers and counselors and school psychologists and chemical dependency counselors...we have yet to see the legislature fund what is needed. So our teachers are the front line. And how do we know?

When asked what professional development they feel is very needed. Here is what they request.

Trauma and Toxic Stress	47%
Effective Discipline	44%
Diverse Curriculum	40%
Restorative Practice	38 %

Do you notice what is missing from that list? Its teaching and instruction. What they want to get better at is making their kids feel more safe and engaged in their classroom.

They know....you can't even get to the instruction if a child is in fight, flight or freeze. They know that classroom disruptions hurt everyone. We want to help our kids. Training educators on trauma responsive classes and restorative practice is one of the best things you can do for our kids this session. There is a surplus. Spend some of that money to help kids and Minnesota educators. Thank you.