



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara
House Committee on Education
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

Honorable Chairperson McNamara and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am respectfully writing in support of House Bill 5936, relating to The Trauma Informed Schools Act. The City of Providence appreciates the General Assembly's support in advancing this important piece of legislation, critical to school districts across Rhode Island.

As Deputy Director of Youth and Education for the City of Providence, I am committed to supporting legislation that prioritizes enhancing school-based practices aimed at increasing student achievement. The Trauma Informed Schools Act helps to achieve this goal by implementing trauma-informed practices in schools throughout the state, which seek to promote shared understandings around trauma and implement activities that engage teachers, school leaders and other staff responsible for school-based planning to use and integrate evidence-based practices that build social-emotional skills into rigorous academic instruction.

One of the most successful ways in which this administration is already supporting this work is through our commitment to the expansion of PVD HealthWorks. We partner with Real Jobs RI and The Institute for Education in Healthcare (IEH) at Rhode Island College (RIC) to provide professional development training to support Rhode Island's [One-Stop Career Center](#) System and healthcare and social assistance (HSA) workers. Since its inception, the initiative has helped develop healthcare partnerships to create diverse youth and adult training pipelines, career pathways, and other innovative workforce solutions for the demands of employers and individuals in the healthcare and social assistance industry.

I look forward to seeing how our work in Providence can help build additional support for statewide, trauma informed school-based practices. I strongly encourage you to support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lajuan Allen

Deputy Director of Youth and Education