



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES OFFICE
Mayor Jorge O. Elorza | City of Providence

January 25, 2022

Representative Joseph M. McNamara
Chair, House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Representative Joseph M. McNamara and Members of the Committee,

As Director for the Healthy Communities Office at the City of Providence, I am writing in support of House Bill 6667 – Relating to Education – Health and Safety of Pupils – Trauma Informed Schools Act.

The City of Providence is dedicated to addressing mental health needs to our community. We currently provide mental health first aid, substance misuse education and support while actively engaging in enhancing our behavioral health crisis response model. Incorporating evidence-based trauma informed education and practices within our schools will lead to healthy lives and academic success.

As we support our students' education, we should work to incorporate proper efforts to enhance social and emotional wellbeing by passing the Trauma Informed Schools Act. Trauma Informed services should be made available to all Rhode Island students as we increase our supports in addressing mental health concerns in our state. We've seen a spike in mental health needs and addressing trauma in schools will aid in combating this matter throughout the state.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Laurie Moïse Sears

Laurie Moïse Sears, MPH
Director
Healthy Communities Office

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