

David Angell - House Bill 5936 - For

My name is David Angell and I am a recent graduate of Rhode Island College's Bachelor of Social Work program. I do not represent any group or organization. I am testifying in favor of House Bill 5936.

As it relates to the public good, being informed of the effects of trauma on individuals can only be a positive. Trauma touches all of us and most traumas are often left unexamined and have negative effects on our lives, influencing our thoughts, behaviors and actions. I moved through the public school system in Rhode Island for the entirety of my youth, and I have also worked with young people as an adult. When examining all the experiences I've encountered, nearly all of the issues that students in schools find themselves working through are the result of trauma, in one way or another. I personally feel a greater understanding of trauma on all levels would lead to greater success for students as well as better emotional well-being. The research on trauma-informed work supports this idea as well.

The implementation of trauma-informed principles will greatly benefit students in the state as well as the teachers and other staff members in schools. The students who struggle the most in our schools are the ones who will likely benefit the most from a trauma-informed approach. We owe it to the students in our state to continue to evolve our approach to their education and well-being. I urge the committee to support House Bill No. 5936. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify.