



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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September 10, 2019

Education and Labor Committee
Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association and the 50 million students they serve, we thank you for recognizing that violent events—like school shootings and everyday community violence—can leave lasting scars on our students’ minds, as well as their bodies. It is important to discuss ways to help them. We would like to submit for the record timely materials from our flagship publication, NEA Today, in connection with the September 11 hearing, “The Importance of Trauma-Informed Practices in Education to Assist Students Impacted by Gun Violence and Other Adversities.”

A workshop developed by teacher Melodie Henderson—potentially a model that could be used nationwide—provides basic information, tips, and strategies on ways to improve learning atmospheres for students with mental illnesses. For more information, please see the attached excerpt from “Are Schools Ready to Tackle the Mental Health Crisis?” The full article is available at <http://neatoday.org/2018/09/13/mental-health-in-schools/>

Professor Janet Shapiro, dean of the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research and director of the Center for Child and Family Wellbeing at Bryn Mawr College, discusses the challenges facing both students and educators in the attached article, “Helping Students Cope with Active Shooter Drills,” also available at <http://neatoday.org/2019/08/29/helping-students-cope-with-active-shooter-drills>

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these materials and stand ready to help address these vitally important issues.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association