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**Gayle L. Manning**  
State Representative

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on HB 123, better known as the Safety And Violence Education (SAVE) for Students Act.

As an elementary school teacher of 37 years, I know how important it is to make sure students have the tools they need to create safe, inclusive communities. Social isolation is a growing problem among our youth, and with kids constantly plugged to social media, the problem is only getting worse. During my time in the classroom, I was constantly updating myself on the state standards, curriculum, and teaching techniques in order to prepare my students for academic success. The SAVE for Students Act will provide students and teachers with tools to recognize and act appropriately when they see a student struggling with social isolation. This focus is geared towards the whole child, not just academics.

We know that 80% of school shooters tell someone of their violent plans prior to the event and 70% of people who die by suicide tell someone or give some type of warning or indication of their plans. That means the majority of acts of violence are preventable if students know the signs and how to ask for help.

This bill will ensure all middle school and high school students in Ohio have access to programs that teach them to know the signs and signals of violence and how to seek help. The SAVE for Students Act provides a comprehensive approach to school safety by providing for student training in social inclusion as well as suicide and violence prevention. Addressing mental health among Ohio's children is a priority, and our legislation is one step towards improving mental health and social isolation.

I will turn it over to my joint sponsor, Rep. Holmes, to talk about the social inclusion training and suicide and violence prevention training. At the conclusion of his testimony, we will be happy to answer any questions.