

## HB2170 -- Whole Child Task Force

### Position: SUPPORT

**Background:** The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected students, educators and families. The negative consequences have impacted students and communities differently along the lines of race, income, language and special needs. However, students faced unmet physical health, mental health and social and emotional needs even prior to the pandemic. The path to recovery requires a commitment from the adults in this State to address our students cultural, physical, emotional and mental health needs and to provide them with stronger and increased systemic support and intervention.

Many educators and schools have embraced and implemented evidenced-based restorative justice and trauma-responsive and culturally relevant practices and interventions. However, the use of these interventions is often isolated or implemented occasionally and only if the school has the appropriate leadership, resources and partners available to seriously engage in this work.

**Purpose:** The Whole Child Task force is created for the purpose of establishing an equitable, inclusive, safe and supportive environment in all schools for every student.

**Goals:** To create a common definition of a trauma-responsive school, district and community. To outline the training and resources required to create and sustain a system of support. To identify or develop a process to conduct an analysis of the organizations that provide training. To provide recommendations concerning the key data to be collected and reported to ensure a full and accurate understanding of progress. To recommend an implementation timeline and to seek input and feedback from stakeholders who reflect the diversity of this State.

***The Whole Child Task Force language was developed by the Illinois Education Association, Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Advance Illinois and the Illinois Federation of Teachers.***