

My name is Nicole Zumwalt, I am a registered nurse currently serving on the board of Serendipity Center. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and thank you for your service. I am here to advocate for 2.8 million dollars in funding for a crucial expansion of our facility.

Serendipity Center is a nonprofit therapeutic school that serves students from over 20 school districts who are so impacted by their emotional and behavioral health needs that their neighborhood schools can't provide an appropriate placement. Serendipity operates at capacity every year and maintains a waiting list. A waiting list means kids are waiting for a place to help them.

Mental health in youth is at a crisis point and to be able to serve not only our current students but reach more students in our communities we must expand our physical capacity to meet the unique needs of these vulnerable students.