



Representative Gail Pavliga
Ohio's 75th House District

House Bill 428 Committee Testimony

Good Morning/Afternoon,

Thank you to Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and all members of this committee and my cosponsor, Representative Edwards, for being here today as we discuss this important piece of legislation.

This bill will create the Adverse Childhood Experiences Commission, otherwise known as the ACEs Commission. The Commission's duty is to study the effects of adverse childhood experiences that has hurt Ohio's youth across this state.

One statistic in particular that I wanted to highlight is that Ohio sadly ranks 46th in the entire nation for kids with high levels of early childhood trauma. We also know that nearly two-thirds of Ohioans have been exposed to ACEs, which includes abuse, community violence, suicide, mental and physical health issues and even imprisonment.

Something must be done to properly find a solution and address this unfortunate issue.

This is why we stand before you today with House Bill 428 that creates the ACEs Commission. What will this body do? The commission will gather experts and act as a resource for the General Assembly in order to pursue laws to fix the detriments of Adverse Childhood Experiences on our people. Lastly, the Commission will create a final report for the General Assembly and sunset after four years.

As we are members of the Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee, I do believe this is a matter that falls under our purview and we should pursue ways that we can minimize ACEs and the effects it has on the citizens throughout Ohio.

Thank you.