

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

H. C. R. No. 45

Representatives Brinkman, Denson

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on 1
Childhood Trauma in Ohio. 2

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Emerging research in neuroscience and psychology 3
reported by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) 4
shows that trauma has a foundational impact on various aspects 5
of human development across the lifespan; and 6

WHEREAS, According to the NCTSN, complex trauma 7
differentially impacts vulnerable, marginalized, 8
underrepresented, and at-risk people experiencing poverty, 9
disability, or systemic oppression due to religion, gender 10
identity, or sexual orientation; and 11

WHEREAS, The 2017-2018 National Survey of Children's Health 12
(NSCH) found that more than 500,000 Ohio children reported one 13
or more adverse childhood experiences (such as divorce, death of 14
a parent, having a parent who served time in jail, experiencing 15
violence in the home or community, being a victim of violence, 16
or living with a person with mental illness or a problem with 17
drugs or alcohol) and more than 400,000 Ohio children reported 18
two or more adverse childhood experiences; and 19

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics describes 20

adverse childhood experiences as stressful or traumatic events 21
that occur during childhood and are strongly related to a wide 22
range of health problems; and 23

WHEREAS, Culture can provide a source of strength, unique 24
coping strategies, and specific resources to respond to trauma; 25
and 26

WHEREAS, Culture influences how an individual interprets 27
and assigns meaning to trauma, impacts how an individual conveys 28
stress through behavior, emotions, and thinking, and affects the 29
determination of health concerns and appropriate interventions 30
and treatments; and 31

WHEREAS, The NCTSN acknowledges that poverty is a 32
contributing factor to childhood trauma; and 33

WHEREAS, The NCTSN discusses how children living in poverty 34
experience chronic stress and feelings of instability and are 35
more likely to live in neighborhoods with high rates of exposure 36
to other traumas such as neighborhood violence and house fires; 37
and 38

WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services 39
Administration (SAMHSA) recognizes that a trauma-informed 40
approach is not a prescribed set of practices or procedures, but 41
instead reflects adherence to the following six key principles 42
that can be generalized across multiple settings: (1) safety; 43
(2) trustworthiness and transparency; (3) peer support; (4) 44
collaboration and mutuality; (5) empowerment, voice, and choice; 45
and (6) cultural, historical, and gender issues; and 46

WHEREAS, Law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, 47
substance use treatment providers, the education system, and 48
social service networks (including foster care, adoption, and 49
other child welfare services, disability services, and family 50
and community supports systems) should all be equipped with up 51

to date knowledge and training on trauma-informed and trauma- 52
responsive care; and 53

WHEREAS, Based on the sources described above, we 54
acknowledge that children experience long-term consequences from 55
trauma they receive through oppressive systems, and part of the 56
goal of this resolution is to recognize how those systems 57
perpetuate trauma among children living in poverty; now 58
therefore be it 59

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 60
Assembly of the State of Ohio, call upon the Governor to take 61
action to address childhood trauma and respectfully urge him to 62
declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma to increase 63
public knowledge in identifying and treating the conditions 64
caused by post-traumatic stress disorders related to child 65
development, with an emphasis on the six key principles of a 66
trauma-informed approach; and be it further 67

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 68
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 69
Governor and the news media of Ohio. 70