

### 47th House District

Portions of Butler County, including  
Hamilton and Fairfield, Ross  
Township and portions of Fairfield,  
Hanover and St. Clair townships

### Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 644-6721  
(800) 282-0253  
(614) 719-0000 (Fax)  
[Rep47@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep47@ohiohouse.gov)  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)



**Sara P. Carruthers**  
Ohio State Representative

### Committees

- Finance-
- Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services-
- Transportation-
- Behavioral Health- Homeland Security-

### Commissions/Councils/Boards

- Early Childhood Advisory Council-
- Ohio Children's Trust Fund-
- Ohio Arts Council-
- Ohio Holocaust & Genocide Memorial & Education Commission-

Chair Pavliga, Vicechair White, Ranking member Brewer and members of the Behavioral Health Committee, I am happy to join my joint sponsor, Representative Baker, to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 352.

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 that I wanted to highlight is that Ohio sadly ranks 46<sup>th</sup> 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 352 that creates the ACEs Commission. What will this body do? The commission will gather experts and act as a resource for the General Assembly to pursue laws to fix the detriments of Adverse Childhood Experiences. 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 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 again for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of HB 352. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.