

**House Bill 352**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**April 23, 2024**  
**D. Patrick Turner**

Chair Pavliga, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brewer and members of the House Behavioral Health Committee:

**As a member of Adoption Network Cleveland, I would like to express support for House Bill 352, which would be a step toward a better life for many Ohioians.** My wife and I are former foster parents and adoptive parents of two little boys in Ashtabula County. This journey as parents has opened our eyes to the needs of many kids and families who have experienced trauma.

As a licensed foster parent I attended many trainings to help prepare me for the challenges of working with neglected and abused children. We were introduced to the Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) concept by our foster agency and attended multiple trainings. As a first-time parent I found the TBRI techniques to be some of the most effective and helpful. The idea of trauma-informed care was new to me and challenged many of my notions of “proper” parenting. These trainings helped me understand the needs being expressed by our children’s behaviors. I learned that we all experience trauma in our lives and deal with it in our own ways. Our kids did not deserve the abuse and neglect they have experienced and they will spend the rest of their life dealing with it.

I became aware of the ACEs study several years ago while working on a committee to address domestic violence in Cleveland. Knowing that adverse childhood experiences can increase the risk of so many health impacts made me realize the importance of our kids getting the help they need to overcome their trauma. The ACEs study showed the interconnectedness of so many seemingly unrelated factors. Kids who experience trauma grow up to be adults. Focusing on ACEs and addressing trauma in children has the potential to create adults who can manage their emotions, make good choices, and live productive lives. This could transform communities in positive ways.

We strive to help our kids make good choices that will help them in the short term and throughout their lives. Often, having good information is crucial to making good choices, this is true on a personal level and in the realm of good governance. Knowing that ACEs can impact so many of our society’s most important institutions including schools, health care, employment, and the criminal justice system, makes this work so much more important.

Other states, such as Texas, have made important strides in this area by implementing Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) in their juvenile justice and other systems. The ACEs Commission has the potential to make similarly impactful recommendations for implementation. **I support the development of the ACEs commission and I look forward to closely following its work.**

Respectfully,

D. Patrick Turner  
Conneaut, Ohio  
paturn.77@gmail.com