

Subject: Ohio House Bill 352
Proponent Testimony
Karen F. Barton
April 21, 2024

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for your efforts to understand and address the needs of children who have experienced trauma. House Bill 352 has the promise of informing the community at large of the challenges and impacts of childhood trauma. As a retired nurse, mother and grandmother, I know we all have much to learn and I appreciate your efforts. Your mothers must be proud.

Our family is blessed with two grandsons adopted through foster care. The challenges in addressing the needs of the boys are accentuated by the limitations of the agencies, courts, and legal advisors that were assigned to support them.

Judges move at a glacial pace. Social service workers have over-bearing caseloads, and the ancillary staff is often minimally engaged or overwhelmed. I don't know the root cause of the limitations but I know the reality of the experience. The challenges that foster families experience could be mitigated with shifts in priority. A study commission to focus on childhood trauma would be a good start.

Thank you to Representatives Baker and Carruthers for sponsoring HB 352. After all, if you need something done, ask a busy woman.

Best regards,
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