



**beech acres**  
PARENTING CENTER

May 6, 2024

Subject: Emphasizing Positive Childhood Experiences in HB 352

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Honorable Chair Pavliga and Esteemed Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 352, which establishes the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) Study Commission. As an advocate for children and families in Ohio, I commend the committee for addressing this critical issue that profoundly impacts the well-being of our communities.

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While acknowledging the importance of understanding and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences, I urge the committee to ensure that HB 352 also emphasizes Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and incorporates strength-based prevention approaches into its framework.

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It is crucial to recognize that while ACEs can have detrimental effects on children's development and long-term health outcomes, PCEs play a significant role in promoting resilience and mitigating the negative impacts of adversity. By focusing solely on ACEs, we risk overlooking the protective factors and assets that can buffer children from the harmful effects of trauma.

As advocates for children and families, we believe that prevention is paramount. While treatment is undoubtedly necessary, prevention efforts not only save taxpayer money but also foster healthier communities by building resilience and strengths across Ohio. By investing in programs and initiatives that promote PCEs, such as nurturing relationships, supportive environments, and access to high-quality education and healthcare, we can create a more supportive and nurturing environment for all children to thrive.

*President & CEO*

Laura Mitchell

Therefore, I urge the committee to ensure that the study commission established by HB 352 incorporates a comprehensive approach that considers both ACEs and PCEs. By examining the full spectrum of childhood experiences and focusing on strengths and assets, we can develop more effective strategies to prevent and mitigate the impact of adversity on children and families in Ohio.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and I stand ready to support your efforts to promote the well-being of our state's children and families.

Sincerely,

Laura Mitchell

President & CEO

Beech Acres Parenting Center