



Representative Tom E. Brinkman, Jr.  
Sponsor Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 14  
House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee

Chairwoman Carruthers, Vice Chair Pavliga, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee, good morning and thank you for allowing me to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 14.

I will not repeat what my colleague has just stated, but rather emphasize his points.

The National Survey of Children's Health found in 2017-2018, almost 600,000 Ohio children had reported at least two ACEs. According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, children of low incomes, disabilities, or who reside in urban or Appalachian counties were most susceptible to experiencing multiple ACEs.

ACEs have been strongly associated with adopting behaviors that negatively impact health by causing disease, disability and death. We see ACEs play out in behaviors such as smoking and alcohol abuse and not finishing high school. The diseases associated with ACEs include heart disease, diabetes, depression, and have a higher rate of dying by suicide.

The 600,000 Ohio youth deserve better. They deserve to have resources available to cope with abuse, neglect, and their traumatic home lives. House Concurrent Resolution 14 urges Governor DeWine to declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma to increase public knowledge in identifying and treating the conditions caused by post-traumatic stress disorders related to childhood development.

Again, I want to thank Representatives West and Upchurch for bringing this to our attention during the last GA as Governor DeWine has begun providing more resources for children's educational and behavioral health needs. The 134th General Assembly has continued drawing attention to this important issue, through complimentary bills and earmarking \$325,000 for FY 22-23. I praise Vice Chair Pavliga and Representative

Edwards for their efforts to establish an Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission.

Thank you again for your time today and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.