



**Representative Sedrick Denson**  
**Sponsor Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 14**  
**House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee**

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

This resolution urges the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma to raise public awareness on identifying and treating conditions onset by toxic stress in childhood. This resolution is similar to the 133rd House Concurrent Resolution 25, sponsored by Representatives West and Upchurch.

The American Academy of Pediatrics defines adverse childhood experiences, otherwise known as ACEs, as stressful or traumatic events that happen to children. Childhood trauma has a foundational impact on various aspects throughout a lifespan. ACEs can include witnessing or experiencing abuse, facing household challenges, and suffering emotional or physical neglect.

Childhood Trauma is pervasive issue facing so many Ohio children as ACEs are more common that you may think. According to the CDC, nearly 61% of adults surveyed across 25 states reported that they had experienced at least one type of ACE, and nearly 1 in 6 reported they had experienced four or more types of ACEs.

Preventing ACEs could potentially reduce a large number of health conditions, as they are associated with long-term health problems. For example, up to 1.9 million cases of heart disease and 21 million cases of depression could have been potentially avoided by preventing ACEs. Therefore helping to lessen the costly economic and social impact on families and our communities totaling hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

These are the things we must understand, generate awareness and place greater emphasis on if we want to address the root causes of childhood trauma and ensure Ohio is a state where our youth can thrive.

Thank you again for your time today. I will now hand it over to my joint sponsor Representative Brinkman to speak.