



**Representative Tom E. Brinkman, Jr.
Sponsor Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 45
House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee**

Chairwoman Carruthers, Vice Chair Pavliga, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 45.

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 45 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.

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. Myself or my office would be glad to answer any questions you may have.