



Chair Schmidt, Vice-Chair Miller and Ranking Member Denson, we'd like to thank you and the members of the Families and Aging Committee for your efforts on Substitute House Bill 7 to protect and strengthen Ohio families. The Triple P - Positive Parenting Program is delivered by providers in Ohio and around the world. Its curriculum is proven to enhance the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents to help prevent and treat behavioral, emotional, and developmental challenges in children. Triple P is one of the most effective parenting programs in the world, backed by 40 years of results.

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund has invested in Triple P for over 14 years and Ohio has trained practitioners in every region of the state from a variety of agencies. At its core, the Triple P model empowers parents and caregivers to build strong relationships with their children, leading to significant reductions in rates of child maltreatment, better outcomes in school, less involvement in the justice system and reduced foster care placements.

The investments Ohio is making in families through providing early childhood support, parenting education, and access to services have a significant positive impact on child development and educational achievement, allowing children to reach their highest potential, but we know there is still work to do.

In nearly every sector of society, families are facing unprecedented challenges due to rising inflation, global uncertainty, learning deficits, increased anxiety and depression exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Access to care remains difficult for too many Ohioans. Over 60 percent of Ohio children have experienced one or more Adverse Childhood Experiences, putting them at higher risk for lifelong health and mental health challenges. Exposure to violence or other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), like child abuse and neglect, are linked to negative outcomes in adulthood such as chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse. People who have experienced trauma are at increased risk to have behavior problems in school, become depressed, attempt suicide, and are more likely as adults to struggle with homelessness, criminality, finances, and unemployment. **However, ACEs and their associated harms are preventable.**

Triple P reaches families through trusted community partners trained to deliver and support the program. Rather than creating new positions to deliver the model, Triple P has been designed so that communities can identify their local trusted members and organizations and train them to provide Triple P curriculum. With flexibility in the model design, different types of providers from various sectors and backgrounds can all be matched to provide a level of support for parents through the Triple P system. We are empowering community-wide change and, by arming parents with information on effective strategies and promoting their own parent-led goals, **parents are making the ultimate decisions about how best to raise their children.**

**Backed by research. Proven by parents.**

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**Triple P is the most well-researched parenting program in the world**, with over 380 published evaluations, including 180 randomized control trial studies where the results of Triple P are compared either to services parents would otherwise receive (*often not evidence-based programs*) or another program. Of these studies and evaluations, 95% of the studies show a positive impact for families that complete Triple P. This level of evidence leaves little room to doubt that Triple P produces positive outcomes for families.

**These investments have the potential to reduce costs to the state economy and contribute to economic growth.** The Washington State Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP) calculated that Standard Triple P provides benefits to taxpayers, participants and others of \$5,669 per participant, in areas such as criminal justice, labor markets earnings, education and health care. **It found for every \$1 spent on Triple P upstream, it saves \$7.78 downstream across several human service sectors.**

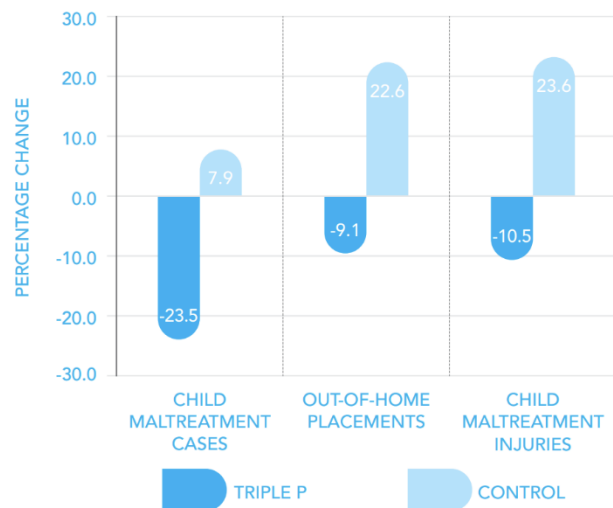


In addition, a landmark study on Triple P conducted by the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** illustrated similar cost savings, demonstrating community-wide reductions of **child maltreatment by 23.5%, foster care placements by 9.1%, and hospital-treated child maltreatment injuries by 10.5%.**

Triple P is ideally suited to generate impact with relatively modest investments. This bill would require the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health and other state departments, to develop strategies for state entities to use \$3 million to (1) inform parents, caregivers, and childcare providers about the Positive Parenting Program, also known as Triple P, and (2) promote the program's benefits, including its parenting, caregiving, and educational resources.

This funding would significantly increase families' access to critical services and the chance for more children to be healthy and reach their full potential. This investment will yield both

US Population Trial results



economic and human benefits with impacts in reduced maltreatment, out of home placements, improved health and mental health, and improved educational outcomes.

We'd like to thank Representative Andrea White and Representative Latyna Humphrey for their work on this bill and would be happy to answer any questions about Triple P's work in Ohio and how positive parenting programs can help build stronger foundations for Ohio families.