As Introduced

134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022

H. C. R. No. 45

Representatives Brinkman, Denson

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma in Ohio.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Emerging research in neuroscience and psychology reported by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) shows that trauma has a foundational impact on various aspects of human development across the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, According to the NCTSN, complex trauma differentially impacts vulnerable, marginalized, underrepresented, and at-risk people experiencing poverty, disability, or systemic oppression due to religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, The 2017-2018 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) found that more than 500,000 Ohio children reported one or more adverse childhood experiences (such as divorce, death of a parent, having a parent who served time in jail, experiencing violence in the home or community, being a victim of violence, or living with a person with mental illness or a problem with drugs or alcohol) and more than 400,000 Ohio children reported two or more adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics describes

adverse childhood experiences as stressful or traumatic events that occur during childhood and are strongly related to a wide range of health problems; and

WHEREAS, Culture can provide a source of strength, unique coping strategies, and specific resources to respond to trauma; and

WHEREAS, Culture influences how an individual interprets and assigns meaning to trauma, impacts how an individual conveys stress through behavior, emotions, and thinking, and affects the determination of health concerns and appropriate interventions and treatments; and

WHEREAS, The NCTSN acknowledges that poverty is a contributing factor to childhood trauma; and

WHEREAS, The NCTSN discusses how children living in poverty experience chronic stress and feelings of instability and are more likely to live in neighborhoods with high rates of exposure to other traumas such as neighborhood violence and house fires; and

WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recognizes that a trauma-informed approach is not a prescribed set of practices or procedures, but instead reflects adherence to the following six key principles that can be generalized across multiple settings: (1) safety; (2) trustworthiness and transparency; (3) peer support; (4) collaboration and mutuality; (5) empowerment, voice, and choice; and (6) cultural, historical, and gender issues; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, substance use treatment providers, the education system, and social service networks (including foster care, adoption, and other child welfare services, disability services, and family and community supports systems) should all be equipped with up

to date knowledge and training on trauma-informed and trauma-responsive care; and

WHEREAS, Based on the sources described above, we acknowledge that children experience long-term consequences from trauma they receive through oppressive systems, and part of the goal of this resolution is to recognize how those systems perpetuate trauma among children living in poverty; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, call upon the Governor to take action to address childhood trauma and respectfully urge him 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 child development, with an emphasis on the six key principles of a trauma-informed approach; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor and the news media of Ohio.