

State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma
Ir_133_0158-1

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020

. C. R. No.

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

Urging the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on
Childhood Trauma in Ohio. 1
2

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 3
4
5
6
7

WHEREAS, According to the NCTSN, complex trauma differentially impacts vulnerable, marginalized, underrepresented, and at-risk people experiencing poverty, disability, or systemic oppression due to race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation; and 8
9
10
11
12

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, living with a person with mental illness or a problem with drugs or alcohol, or experiencing unfair treatment due to race or 13
14
15
16
17
18
19



wlg7sangpr9fcs6cj29rte

ethnicity) 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 NSCH found that the potential for childhood
trauma exists among all major racial and ethnic groups in the
United States, and some racial and ethnic minorities are at a
greater risk for specific traumas and adverse effects from
trauma; and

WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association recognizes
that racism is a contributing factor to childhood trauma for
children of African American, Native, and Hispanic/LatinX
descent; and

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

WHEREAS, Oppressive systems in the United States have been
perpetuating and maintaining a traumatized existence for African
Americans since slavery; 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 50
instead reflects adherence to the following six key principles 51
that can be generalized across multiple settings: (1) safety; 52
(2) trustworthiness and transparency; (3) peer support; (4) 53
collaboration and mutuality; (5) empowerment, voice, and choice; 54
and (6) cultural, historical, and gender issues; and 55

WHEREAS, Law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, 56
substance use treatment providers, the education system, and 57
social service networks (including foster care, adoption, and 58
other child welfare services, disability services, and family 59
and community supports systems) should all be equipped with up 60
to date knowledge and training on trauma-informed and trauma- 61
responsive care; and 62

WHEREAS, Based on the sources described above, we 63
acknowledge that children experience long-term consequences from 64
trauma they receive through oppressive systems, and part of the 65
goal of this resolution is to recognize how those systems 66
perpetuate trauma within the African American community; now 67
therefore be it 68

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 69
Assembly of the State of Ohio, call upon the Governor to take 70
action to address childhood trauma and respectfully urge him to 71
declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma to increase 72
public knowledge in identifying and treating the conditions 73
caused by post-traumatic stress disorders related to child 74
development, with an emphasis on the six key principles of a 75
trauma-informed approach and how laws, policies, and systems 76
have contributed to ongoing trauma within minority communities; 77
and be it further 78

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 79
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 80
Governor and the news media of Ohio. 81