

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**H. C. R. No. 14**

**Representatives Brinkman, Denson**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Lepore-Hagan, Miranda, West, Ingram, Carfagna, Kelly,  
Smith, M., Crawley, Russo, Weinstein, Crossman, Lightbody, Dean**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

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

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

WHEREAS, Emerging research in neuroscience and psychology 3  
reported by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) 4  
shows that trauma has a foundational impact on various aspects 5  
of human development across the lifespan; and 6

WHEREAS, According to the NCTSN, complex trauma 7  
differentially impacts vulnerable, marginalized, 8  
underrepresented, and at-risk people experiencing poverty, 9  
disability, or systemic oppression due to race, religion, gender 10  
identity, or sexual orientation; and 11

WHEREAS, The 2017-2018 National Survey of Children's Health 12  
(NSCH) found that more than 500,000 Ohio children reported one 13  
or more adverse childhood experiences (such as divorce, death of 14  
a parent, having a parent who served time in jail, experiencing 15  
violence in the home or community, being a victim of violence, 16  
living with a person with mental illness or a problem with drugs 17  
or alcohol, or experiencing unfair treatment due to race or 18

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, 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, Oppressive systems in the United States have been 49  
perpetuating and maintaining a traumatized existence for African 50  
Americans since slavery; and 51

WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services 52  
Administration (SAMHSA) recognizes that a trauma-informed 53  
approach is not a prescribed set of practices or procedures, but 54  
instead reflects adherence to the following six key principles 55  
that can be generalized across multiple settings: (1) safety; 56  
(2) trustworthiness and transparency; (3) peer support; (4) 57  
collaboration and mutuality; (5) empowerment, voice, and choice; 58  
and (6) cultural, historical, and gender issues; and 59

WHEREAS, Law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, 60  
substance use treatment providers, the education system, and 61  
social service networks (including foster care, adoption, and 62  
other child welfare services, disability services, and family 63  
and community supports systems) should all be equipped with up 64  
to date knowledge and training on trauma-informed and trauma- 65  
responsive care; and 66

WHEREAS, Based on the sources described above, we 67  
acknowledge that children experience long-term consequences from 68  
trauma they receive through oppressive systems, and part of the 69  
goal of this resolution is to recognize how those systems 70  
perpetuate trauma within the African American community and 71  
among children living in poverty; now therefore be it 72

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 73  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, call upon the Governor to take 74  
action to address childhood trauma and respectfully urge him to 75  
declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma to increase 76  
public knowledge in identifying and treating the conditions 77  
caused by post-traumatic stress disorders related to child 78  
development, with an emphasis on the six key principles of a 79  
trauma-informed approach and how laws, policies, and systems 80

have contributed to ongoing trauma within minority communities;	81
and be it further	82
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives	83
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the	84
Governor and the news media of Ohio.	85