

1 WHEREAS, ACEs are stressful or traumatic experiences that
2 include abuse, neglect, and household instability and are recognized
3 as a proxy for toxic stress, which can affect brain and body
4 development; and

5 WHEREAS, ACEs are determinants of major public health problems
6 in Oklahoma, such as heart disease, substance abuse, and mental
7 illness. Detrimental effects can be buffered by building resiliency
8 and promoting protective factors (PACES) in a child's life through
9 early intervention; and

10 WHEREAS, the conservative annual cost of ACEs nationally is
11 estimated to be \$750 billion; and

12 WHEREAS, at least 25% of Oklahoma's children have experienced
13 two or more ACEs and one in six adults have experienced four or more
14 ACEs; and

15 WHEREAS, trauma-informed care is an approach that can bring
16 greater understanding and more effective ways to prevent, identify,
17 and support and serve children, adults, families, and communities
18 affected by ACEs, trauma, adversity, and toxic stress; and

19 WHEREAS, research has identified at least 10 protective factors
20 (PACES) including having a caring, competent adult in one's life,
21 having a hobby, participating in after-school activities and
22 organized sports, volunteering and helping others, having a safe and
23 clean home, having enough food to eat, having access to appropriate
24 school resources and academic support needed to learn; and

1 WHEREAS, trauma-informed care is being promoted and established
2 in many of Oklahoma's urban and rural counties and communities. By
3 adopting trauma-informed approaches that build resilience and
4 promote protective factors in all public, private, and charter
5 schools, workplaces, communities, and government programs, training
6 and licensing can aid in preventing mental, emotional, physical, and
7 social issues for people impacted by ACEs, trauma, adversity, and
8 toxic stress; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Oklahoma Legislature unanimously passed
10 Senate Bill No. 1517 to establish the Trauma Informed Task Force to
11 identify, evaluate, recommend, maintain, and update a set of best
12 practices with respect to children and youth, and their families as
13 appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing
14 trauma, especially adverse childhood experiences.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
16 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17 CONCURRING THEREIN:

18 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature designates April 7, 2022, as
19 ACEs and PACEs Awareness Day in Oklahoma, in conjunction with Child
20 Abuse Prevention Month, to highlight the impact of trauma and the
21 importance of prevention and community resilience through trauma-
22 informed care to reduce children's exposure to adverse childhood
23 experiences, address the facts of those experiences, and build and
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1 promote resilience and protective factors while investing in
2 preventive health care and mental health and wellness interventions.

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