

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 24

By: Hicks and Stanley of the
Senate

5 and

6 Bush of the House

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution designating April 7, 2022, as
10 ACEs and PACEs Awareness Day in Oklahoma, in
11 conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month, to
12 highlight the impact of trauma and the importance of
prevention and community resilience through trauma-
informed care.

13 WHEREAS, the landmark Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study
14 from the late 1990s brought attention to the powerful impact that
15 negative childhood experiences have on future health and
16 functioning, and demonstrated the importance of gathering
17 information early in the lives of children and their families and
18 designing early intervention programs that target abuse and neglect;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, ACEs are stressful or traumatic experiences that
21 include abuse, neglect, and household instability and are recognized
22 as a proxy for toxic stress, which can affect brain and body
23 development; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, trauma-informed care is being promoted and established
22 in many of Oklahoma's urban and rural counties and communities. By
23 adopting trauma-informed approaches that build resilience and
24 promote protective factors in all public, private, and charter

1 schools, workplaces, communities, and government programs, training
2 and licensing can aid in preventing mental, emotional, physical, and
3 social issues for people impacted by ACEs, trauma, adversity, and
4 toxic stress; and

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

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
12 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
13 CONCURRING THEREIN:

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

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