

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 133 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BURGOS,
LONGIETTI, SAPPEY, SANCHEZ, HOWARD, N. NELSON, HOHENSTEIN,
KIRKLAND, SCHMITT, ISAACSON, MADDEN, YOUNG, SCHWEYER AND
ROZZI, AUGUST 12, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AUGUST 12, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the harmful effects of adverse childhood experiences
2 on individuals in this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, The term "adverse childhood experience" is used to
4 describe all types of abuse, neglect and other potentially
5 traumatic experiences that occur during childhood; and

6 WHEREAS, Adverse childhood experiences can profoundly impact
7 child development and have been linked to risky health
8 behaviors, chronic health conditions, poor life outcomes and
9 early death; and

10 WHEREAS, The risk for these negative outcomes increases with
11 each adverse childhood experience; and

12 WHEREAS, A study on adverse childhood experiences conducted
13 at Kaiser Permanente from 1995 to 1997 involved more than 17,000
14 adults who completed confidential questionnaires on their
15 childhood experiences, current behaviors and current health
16 status during physical exams; and

17 WHEREAS, The study asked participants whether they had

suffered emotional, physical or sexual abuse or emotional or physical neglect as a child; and

WHEREAS, The study also asked participants if, during childhood, they had lived in a household where their mother or stepmother was treated violently, if their parents had ever separated or divorced or if they lived in a household where someone abused alcohol or street drugs, had a mental illness or was incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-eight percent of participants reported experiencing childhood physical abuse, 21% reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse and 11% reported experiencing childhood emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, More than 10% of participants reported experiencing childhood emotional or physical neglect; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-seven percent of participants reported that, as a child, they lived in a household where a household member abused alcohol or street drugs; and

WHEREAS, Almost two-thirds of participants reported at least one adverse childhood experience, and more than one in five participants reported having three or more adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, It is a matter of debate whether the list of adverse childhood experiences included in the study at Kaiser Permanente is exhaustive, since 54% of participants in the study were female, 75% were white, 46% were over 60 years of age and 39% had earned at least a college degree; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with one adverse childhood experience are twice as likely to identify as an alcoholic, 1.8 times more likely to have attempted suicide and 1.7 times more likely to have used illicit drugs when compared to individuals with no

adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with four or more adverse childhood experiences are 12.2 times more likely to have attempted suicide, 7.4 times more likely to identify as an alcoholic and 4.7 times more likely to have used illicit drugs when compared to individuals who have no adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, Six or more adverse childhood experiences can reduce life expectancy by nearly 20 years; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) survey, more than half of all adults in this Commonwealth are estimated to have at least one adverse childhood experience; and

WHEREAS, Of survey respondents, 35% indicated that they experienced emotional abuse, 16% indicated that they experienced physical abuse and 11% indicated that they experienced sexual abuse as a child; and

WHEREAS, Survey respondents between 18 and 29 years of age were more than three times as likely to indicate that they had four or more adverse childhood experiences than respondents who were 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, Nonfatal child maltreatment is estimated to cost the United States \$428 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, The CDC recognizes that some children are more vulnerable to adverse childhood experiences because of surrounding socioeconomic conditions, and the public would benefit from knowledge of how adverse childhood experiences affect various individuals in a diverse population; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization is seeking international data on adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization's Adverse Childhood

1 Experiences International Questionnaire expands the list of
2 adverse childhood experiences to include, among other things,
3 bullying and gun violence; and

4 WHEREAS, Many children throughout this Commonwealth are
5 victims of bullying or gun violence; and

6 WHEREAS, A child's safe, stable and nurturing relationships
7 with an adult can be a protective factor against adverse
8 childhood experiences; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals in this Commonwealth can benefit from an
10 increased awareness of adverse childhood experiences; therefore
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
13 harmful effects of adverse childhood experiences on individuals
14 in this Commonwealth.