

House Resolution 1168

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Williams of the 37th, Kausche of the 50th, Moore of the 95th, Hutchinson of the 107th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to Improve
2 the Health of Women and Children; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events that
4 negatively impact a child's health, development, and long-term well-being such that the
5 greater number of adverse experiences a child faces, the more likely they will face greater
6 risk factors that cause death in adults; and

7 WHEREAS, according to analysis of the United States Department of Health and Human
8 Services Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau
9 (MCHB), and Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) data, a
10 National Survey of Children's Health Indicator Data estimated that in 2019: 23.6 percent of
11 Georgia children ages 0 to 17 lived in families facing economic hardship; 25.4 percent
12 experienced a divorce or separation of parent or guardian; 4.8 percent experienced the death
13 of a parent or guardian; 9.6 percent experienced a parent or guardian serve time in jail; 5.6
14 percent witnessed domestic violence; 5.6 percent were a victim or witness of neighborhood
15 violence; 7.9 percent lived with someone who was mentally ill, suicidal, or severely
16 depressed; 9.0 percent lived with someone who had a problem with alcohol or drugs; and 5.2
17 percent faced discrimination due to their race or ethnicity; and

18 WHEREAS, during the past three years from 2016 to 2019 in Georgia, drug deaths increased
19 24 percent from 9.9 to 12.3 deaths per 100,000 females ages 15-44; teen suicide increased
20 40 percent from 6.8 to 9.5 deaths per 100,000 adolescents ages 15-19; and child mortality
21 increased 12 percent from 26.1 to 29.2 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-19; and

22 WHEREAS, economic insecurity is the most common adverse childhood experience, and
23 children living in poverty are more likely to confront one or more adverse childhood
24 experiences; and

25 WHEREAS, non-Hispanic black children are nearly twice as likely to experience two or
26 more adverse childhood experiences compared with non-Hispanic white children, and
27 Hispanic children have the next highest prevalence of two or more adverse childhood
28 experiences; and

29 WHEREAS, Georgia is ranked 40th regarding the health of women and children with key
30 challenges identified in the high percentage of uninsured women ages 19 to 44, specifically
31 20.2 percent, which ranks 48th in the nation, a low percentage of live births in which the
32 mother began prenatal care between the first and sixth month of pregnancy, which ranks 45th
33 in the nation, and a low percentage of high school graduation, which ranks 41st in the nation;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, children whose mother is in very good or excellent health and who live in
36 supportive neighborhoods are less likely to experience adverse childhood trauma; and

37 WHEREAS, prevention strategies for adverse childhood experiences include home visiting
38 programs for pregnant women and families with newborns; parenting training programs;
39 intimate partner violence prevention; teen pregnancy prevention programs; support networks
40 for teens; treatment for mental illness and substance abuse; high quality affordable childcare;
41 and sufficient income support for lower income families; and

42 WHEREAS, policy recommendations to address adverse childhood experiences include
43 increasing awareness of ACEs and their impact on health; increasing capacity of health care
44 providers to assess for the presence of ACEs and provide appropriate treatment options;
45 training health care providers in trauma-informed care; and enhancing the capacity of
46 communities to prevent and respond to ACEs through investments in evidence-based
47 prevention programming, trauma interventions, and increasing access to needed mental
48 health and substance abuse services.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

50 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
51 on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to Improve the Health of Women and
52 Children.

53 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
54 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
55 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
56 of the committee.

57 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
58 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
59 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

60 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
61 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
62 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
63 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

64 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
65 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
66 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
67 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
68 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
69 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

70 (6) **Report.**

71 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
72 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
73 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
74 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

75 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
76 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
77 of this paragraph.

78 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
79 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
80 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
81 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

82 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
83 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
84 thereof.

85 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.