

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 166

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to urge all local education agencies to provide Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training for all teachers.

WHEREAS, childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on an individual's life in a number of areas, including lifelong health and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction can cause stress during childhood that is especially harmful to the developing brain; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that, in 2016 alone, more than 19,000 people in the United States were victims of homicide and nearly 45,000 people took their own lives; many others also survive violent acts and have permanent physical and emotional scars; and

WHEREAS, referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), these traumas have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential, and early death; and

WHEREAS, the Sycamore Institute, an independent policy research center in Tennessee, finds that adults with more adverse childhood experiences are more likely to smoke tobacco, suffer from depression, and experience conditions that are associated with increased prevalence of certain health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, by affecting health outcomes and behaviors, ACEs increase healthcare costs in taxpayer-funded programs like TennCare, raise employers' costs for health care and productivity loss, and shrink earnings for employees who miss work; and

WHEREAS, the risk of long-term health and social problems increases as the number of ACEs increase; over half of all Tennesseans reported at least one ACE between 2014 and 2017, and about seventeen percent had experienced four or more; and

WHEREAS, according to the Sycamore Institute, in 2017, ACEs among Tennessee adults led to an estimated \$5.2 billion in direct medical costs and lost productivity from employees missing work; and

WHEREAS, the ACE Awareness Foundation in Memphis educates the community about ACEs, supports families in their efforts to prevent and mitigate ACEs, and works to change local and State systems to support ACE prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, by means of Public Chapter 723 of 2018, the Department of Education has developed an evidence-based training program on ACEs for school leaders and teachers; and

WHEREAS, to begin addressing the problem of ACEs in Tennessee, teachers should receive appropriate training to gain knowledge about how student learning and behavior is impacted by trauma and the steps they can take to help students develop a greater sense of safety at school; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we urge every local education agency in Tennessee to provide Adverse Childhood Experiences training for its teachers.