

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-016

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE HOUSE
4 COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY
5 AFFAIRS A STUDY ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.
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7 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences are events or environmental
8 factors that impact key areas of brain development and have a lasting effect
9 on the health and well-being of an individual; and
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11 WHEREAS, an estimated eighty-five percent (85%) of brain development
12 occurs during the early years in the life of an individual, early life
13 experiences are an important public health issue; and
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15 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences include without limitation
16 physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, witnessing domestic
17 violence, parental divorce or separation, the incarceration of a parent or
18 guardian, substance abuse committed by a parent or guardian, mental illness
19 affecting a parent or guardian, and living in poverty; and
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21 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences have a significant impact on
22 lifelong health outcomes for an individual and opportunities available to an
23 individual; and
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25 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences have been linked to poor
26 academic performance, behavioral struggles in school, risky health behaviors,
27 substance abuse, mental illness, chronic health conditions, a poor quality of
28 life, and early death; and
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30 WHEREAS, the risk of negative outcomes that continue throughout the
31 life of an individual increases with an increase in the number of adverse
32 childhood experiences; and
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34 WHEREAS, Arkansas has a vested interest in working to decrease the
35 impact of adverse childhood experiences on the health and well-being of
36 Arkansas residents as the state ranks in the top five (5) nationally for

1 children who have experienced three (3) or more adverse childhood
2 experiences; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are stakeholders, including without limitation state
5 entities, private organizations, and nonprofit organizations, that recognize
6 the impact of adverse childhood experiences on both young and older Arkansas
7 residents, and considering their expertise and experience in these areas of
8 public health, safety, and wellbeing that are of such importance in shaping
9 public policy in our state, their existing work and the possibilities for
10 their future collaboration should be presented to the General Assembly,

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12 NOW THEREFORE,
13 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY:

15 THAT the Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on Aging,
16 Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs conduct a study on
17 adverse childhood experiences with a specific focus on:

- 18 (1) Increasing awareness of adverse childhood experiences and
19 the impact of adverse childhood experiences;
20 (2) Reducing the number of adverse childhood experiences;
21 (3) Promoting healing and wellness for the residents of this
22 state as it relates to adverse childhood experiences; and
23 (4) Building the capacity of the human services and health
24 systems in the State of Arkansas to address adverse childhood experiences.

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27 Respectfully submitted,

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31 Representative Jamie Scott
32 District 37

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34 Prepared by: JNL/JNL

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