

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-009

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

1 Arkansas residents as the state ranks in the top five (5) nationally for
2 children who have experienced three (3) or more adverse childhood
3 experiences; and
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5 WHEREAS, there are stakeholders, including without limitation state
6 entities, private organizations, and nonprofit organizations, that recognize
7 the impact of adverse childhood experiences on both young and older Arkansas
8 residents, and considering their expertise and experience in these areas of
9 public health, safety, and wellbeing that are of such importance in shaping
10 public policy in our state, their existing work and the possibilities for
11 their future collaboration should be presented to the General Assembly,
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13 NOW THEREFORE,

14 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY:

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

20 (1) Increasing awareness of adverse childhood experiences and
21 the impact of adverse childhood experiences;

22 (2) Reducing the number of adverse childhood experiences;

23 (3) Promoting healing and wellness for the residents of this
24 state as it relates to adverse childhood experiences; and

25 (4) Building the capacity of the human services and health
26 systems in the State of Arkansas to address adverse childhood experiences.
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29 Respectfully submitted,
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33 Representative Jamie Scott

34 District 37
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36 Prepared by: JNL/JNL