



To: Representative Maxine Grad, Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Abigail Rogers, Director, Advocacy and Government Affairs,
March of Dimes Northeast

Date: January 12, 2018

Re: H.550 An act relating to childhood trauma and the best interests of a child

On behalf of the March of Dimes Northeast Region, I would like to express support for H.550. This bill proposes to require the court to integrate trauma-informed analysis in making a best-interests determination in a CHINS proceeding; and also would require trainings for attorneys and judges.

Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. As such, early experiences are an important public health issue. Much of the foundational research in this area has been referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Adverse Childhood Experiences have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential, and early death.

The March of Dimes supports the use of trauma informed care in public health, health care practice and in all areas which might affect the assessment of treatment of services of a child. Our work in the areas of families affected by substance use disorders and young families, and newly parenting women has been positively affected by the adoption of screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's).

The March of Dimes foundation works to prevent birth defects, infant mortality and preterm birth.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Abigail Rogers
Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, Northeast
Arogers2@marchofdimes.org

