



To: Senator Claire Ayer, Chair and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
From: Abigail Rogers, Director, Advocacy and Government Affairs,  
March of Dimes Northeast  
Date: January 12, 2018  
Re: SUPPORT - S.261 An act relating to mitigating trauma and toxic stress during childhood  
by strengthening child and family resistance

Dear Senator Ayer and Members of the Committee of the Senate Health and Welfare  
Committee:

The March of Dimes Foundation would like to express support for S.261.

Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on future violence, victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. Early experiences are an important public health issue. Much of the research in this area has been referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, limited life potential and early death. As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for these outcomes. The wide-ranging health and social consequences of ACEs underscore the importance of preventing them before they happen.

Coordinating care for children and families by linking and integrating community services with medical services offered, preventing the negative effects of childhood trauma and toxic stress through evidence-based or evidence-informed early intervention public health programs and using home visiting in conjunction with primary care services is ideal.

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 have been positively affected by the adoption of screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's).

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. We hope that the committee will move this important legislation forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Abigail Rogers  
Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, Northeast  
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