

1 short-term and long-term goals, and succeed in educational and vocational
2 pursuits; and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to the above negative outcomes, children
4 and adults are more likely to attempt to self-medicate trauma-related
5 "fight-flight-or-freeze" anxiety and emotional dysfunction by using avail-
6 able substances such as tobacco, alcohol, prescription medications, and
7 street drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, and cannabis; and

8 WHEREAS, because of the cumulative adverse effects of the above nega-
9 tive outcomes on their physical health and emotional and cognitive capabili-
10 ties, children and adults affected by severe traumatic events, despite their
11 sincere and best efforts to succeed in life, are more likely to:

- 12 1. Perform poorly in school and other academic pursuits;
- 13 2. Struggle with work performance and sustainable employment;
- 14 3. Become chronically unemployed as adults, resulting in financial
15 stress, reduced quality of life, and increased risk of experiencing
16 long-term disability, homelessness, and other personal and family
17 traumatic experiences;
- 18 4. Become dependent on and addicted to tobacco, alcohol, prescription
19 medications, illicit drugs, and other substances;
- 20 5. Become directly engaged with law enforcement and the criminal jus-
21 tice system;
- 22 6. Suffer from significant mental illness, including depression, psy-
23 chosis, and severe anxiety, leading to suicides and attempted suicides
24 that otherwise would not have occurred;
- 25 7. Suffer from serious physical health problems with poor long-term
26 outcomes that otherwise would not have occurred;
- 27 8. Engage in high-risk sexual behaviors as adolescents and adults,
28 including onset of sexual activity at an early age and multiple sexual
29 partners, resulting in increased risks of adolescent pregnancy and
30 paternity, other unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted dis-
31 eases;
- 32 9. Experience significant problems and failures in marriage and other
33 intimate partner relationships;
- 34 10. Become victims or perpetrators of intimate partner violence as
35 adults;
- 36 11. Struggle, despite their sincere efforts, to provide a stable and
37 nurturing environment for their current and future children, resulting
38 in increased likelihood of intergenerational trauma and intergenera-
39 tional poverty; and
- 40 12. Face a life expectancy shortened by as many as 20 years when com-
41 pared to average life expectancy for adults who did not experience se-
42 vere trauma as children; and

43 WHEREAS, with an increase in understanding about the impacts of trauma
44 has come the development of evidence-based questionnaires that identify be-
45 haviors and health-related disorders in children and adults that can be in-
46 dicative of possible trauma-related exposures; and

47 WHEREAS, using these questionnaires can provide the opportunity to
48 identify and refer a child or adult for appropriate additional evaluation
49 and treatment; and

1 WHEREAS, the mental health profession can effectively diagnose and
2 treat trauma-related disorders following evidence-based approaches that
3 have been proven to be successful; and

4 WHEREAS, early childhood offers an important window of elevated oppor-
5 tunity to prevent, treat, and heal the impacts of adverse childhood experi-
6 ences and toxic stress on a child's brain and body; and

7 WHEREAS, a critical factor in buffering a child from the negative ef-
8 fects of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences is the existence of
9 at least one stable, supportive relationship between the child and a nurtur-
10 ing adult; and

11 WHEREAS, with the increase in scientific understanding and ability to
12 identify, prevent, and treat trauma-related disorders, there is great hope
13 for thousands of Idaho children and adults to begin healing from the negative
14 effects of adverse childhood experiences, to develop resiliency, and to have
15 brighter, more productive futures than was previously possible; and

16 WHEREAS, in order to maximize the potential for positive outcomes of ev-
17 idence-based interventions in the treatment of severe trauma, it is impera-
18 tive that employees of the State of Idaho and other people who interact di-
19 rectly with vulnerable children and adults become informed regarding the ef-
20 fects of trauma on the human brain and available screening and assessment
21 tools and treatment interventions that lead to increased resiliency in chil-
22 dren and adults who struggle in life as the result of trauma-related disor-
23 ders.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
25 sion of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
26 the Senate concurring therein, that all officers, agencies, and employees
27 of the State of Idaho whose responsibilities include working with vulnera-
28 ble children and adults, such as the State Board of Education, the State De-
29 partment of Education, the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department
30 of Correction, the Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Department of La-
31 bor, and Idaho courts, are encouraged to:

32 1. Become informed regarding well-documented detrimental short-term
33 and long-term impacts to children and adults from serious traumatic
34 childhood experiences as outlined above; and

35 2. Implement evidence-based interventions and practices that are
36 proven to be successful in developing resiliency in children and adults
37 currently suffering from trauma-related disorders to help them recover
38 from their trauma and function at their full capacity and potential in
39 school, in the workplace, and in community, family, and interpersonal
40 relationships.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the
42 State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, the Department
43 of Health and Welfare, the Department of Correction, the Department of Juve-
44 nile Corrections, the Department of Labor, and the Idaho Supreme Court.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all non-
46 profit agencies and other entities that contract with the State of Idaho to
47 provide services to vulnerable children and adults.