# Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

April 20, 2016



#### We need a system that...

- Understands our kids' histories
- Understands what a "hard place" is
- Understands how the whole child is impacted

## EVERY CHILD comes with a history. We need to UNDERSTAND their histories if we want to HELP them.

### There are SIX risk factors that make a HARD PLACE

- Prenatal stress and harm
- Difficult labor and delivery
- Early medical trauma
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Trauma

#### Hard places impact the WHOLE CHILD

- Altered BRAIN development
- Changed BIOLOGY
- Impact on the BODY and the processing of sensory inputs
- Altered BELIEFS
- Response to stress and fear affects BEHAVIOR

#### We need families that are...

- Equipped for the journey
- Supported along the way
- Connected to others

#### **Empowered to Connect**

- Interactive Learning Experience
- Designed for adoptive and foster parents
- Relies heavily on the TBRI model developed at the Institute of Child development at TCU
- Helps parents understand their child's history and needs

- Prepare Course
- Connect Course
- Discipline that Connects and Corrects

#### **Post-Adopt Services**

- Counseling
- Respite
- Camp



















