

FASD RESPECT ACT BACKGROUND & RATIONALE
Section 104, Support Reauthorization Act, H.R. 2483/S. 2121

- ✓ **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)** prevention and support programs first authorized in 1998 because of the 1996 Institute of Medicine (IOM) study that found that prenatal alcohol exposure causes far more harm to the developing fetus than any other substance.
- ✓ NIAAA funded research (JAMA, 2018;319(5): 474-482) shows an alarming prevalence of up to 1 in 20 first graders in the United States having the resulting disability of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).
- ✓ \$27 million for FASD prevention and support programs appropriated in 2000 (FY2001) (see attached for more details).
- ✓ FASD authorization language expired in 2007.
- ✓ **Funding for FASD programs has dramatically declined** to \$11.5 million at CDC and \$1 million at HRSA ([see attached for more details](#)). FASD research has continued at the NIAAA with funding provided under its own authorization, separate from the initial 1998 authorization. This funding has remained relatively steady, with marginal increases over the years (\$30+ M- FY2024)
- ✓ 118th Congress - FASD Respect Act (S.1800/HR.3946) introduced by Senators Murkowski and original co-sponsors Amy Klobuchar, Angus King, and Jerry Moran, along with Representatives Don Bacon (R-NE/02) and Betty McCollum (D-MN/4). Language was approved by Senate HELP Committee as part of S. 3393, the SUPPORT Reauthorization Act.
- ✓ 119th Congress - [FASD Respect Act – SENATE \(S. 139\)](#) introduced by Senators Murkowski and original co-sponsors Amy Klobuchar, Angus King, Jerry Moran, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Maria Cantwell, and Kevin Cramer and referred to Senate HELP Committee; [HOUSE \(H.R. 2483, Section 104\)](#) – language from Respect Act (some differences from S. 139) passed House on June 4, 2025; sent to Senate; referred to Senate HELP Committee ([S. 2121](#)).
- ✓ FASD Respect Act language in Section 104 (H.R. 2483/S. 2121) reauthorizes expired programs for FASD prevention, research and services and authorizes \$12.5 million for FY2026- FY2030 for FASD prevention & intervention programs; included new authorization (1) to build State and Tribal capacity to strategically address identification, treatment and support programs that are FASD-informed; (2) for grants to entities with demonstrated expertise in the FASD field to assist states and tribes and provide other public awareness and identification, support programs.
- ✓ Prenatal alcohol exposure and the disability of FASD is most often unrecognized and misunderstood by existing systems of care funded by federal, state and tribal governments (health, education, substance use, mental health, justice, etc.), and as a result, current funding streams do not adequately address FASD. Funding to states and tribes along with technical assistance on best practice and evidence-based FASD-informed programs will help states and tribes systemically address FASD prevention, identification and support.

SECTION SUMMARY OF FASD RESPECT ACT – Section 104 – Support Reauthorization Act, 104

Section 399H Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Prevention, Intervention and Services Program

GENERAL. Authorizes the Secretary of the Dept. of Health and Human Services to establish or continue activities **to support a comprehensive FASD program**, which may include the following programs (Note: Numbers 1, 2 and 4 contain language from the original 1998 FASD authorization; Number 3 is new language authorizing grant funding to states and tribes to build capacity for FASD identification and support).

PROGRAMS

- 1) Education and public awareness programs targeting several service providers including health and social services in all phases of child development:
 - Strategies to educate school age children on FASD;
 - Public and community FASD awareness;
 - Strategies to coordinate information and services across community agencies (foster care, adoption, social work, education, vocational and justice)
- 2) Supporting and conducting research on FASD, including developing appropriate medical and diagnostic methods for identifying FASD and effective evidence-based or informed interventions and appropriate supports for preventing prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE)
- 3) Building State and Tribal capacity for the identification, treatment, and support of individuals with FASD and their families. Activities under this section may include
 - Utilizing and adapting existing Federal, State or Tribal programs to include FASD identification and FASD-informed support;
 - Developing and expanding screening and diagnostic capacity for FASD;
 - Developing, implementing and evaluating targeted FASD-informed intervention programs;
 - Providing training for professionals across relevant sectors;
 - Disseminating information on FASD to affected individuals and their families.
- 4) Applied research program to support and conduct demonstration projects

GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Eligible entities. Entities eligible for grants, cooperative agreements or contracts include a State, Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, local government, scientific or academic institution or nonprofit organization. Provides that HHS Secretary may set guidelines for submission, including requirements for States or Tribes to designate an individual to serve as a FASD State or Tribal coordinator of FASD activities and to provide a description of an advisory committee to provide guidance in developing and implementing a statewide or Tribal strategic plan to prevent FASD and provide for the identification, treatment and support of individuals with FASD and their families

DEFINITION OF FASD-INFORMED- Adds a new definition of FASD-Informed with respect to support or an intervention program under this section. Such programs or supports are defined as those that use culturally and linguistically informed evidence-based or practice-based interventions and appropriate

resources to support an improved quality of life for an individual with FASD and the family of such individual.

Adds a new section 399I to the US Code for strengthening capacity and education for FASD as follows:

SEC. 399I – STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND EDUCATION FOR FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

IN GENERAL. Requires the HHS Secretary to award grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to public or nonprofit entities with demonstrated expertise in the field of FASD for the purpose of building local, state, and national capacities to prevent the occurrence of FASD and allows funds to be used for the following purposes:

PROGRAMS

- (1) Developing public awareness activities to raise public awareness of risks associated with prenatal alcohol exposure;
- (2) Acting as a clearinghouse for evidence-based resources on FASD prevention, identification and intervention services and best practices to help inform systems of care for individuals with FASD across their lifespan;
- (4) Increasing awareness of FASD screening tools and intervention services and best practices by conducting trainings for a number of professionals and providers related to FASD supports and services;
- (5) Improving capacity for State, Tribal and local affiliates dedicated to FASD awareness, prevention and identification and family and individual support programs and services; and
- (6) Providing technical assistance to grantees under Section 399H.

APPROPRIATIONS

Authorizes appropriation of \$12.5 million for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030. Requires the Secretary of HHS to submit a report no later than four years after enactment of this Act to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives containing the following:

- 1) A review of the activities carried out in the two sections (399H and 399I);
- 2) A description of the activities on FASD identification, prevention, treatment; and,
- 3) Methods used to evaluate the outcome of such activities and assessment of activities to support individuals with FASD.

Attached Document

- [History of FASD Program Authorizations and Funding](#)