



To the Editor,

An invisible disability affecting 1 in 20 of America's children may no longer be so invisible as result of recently introduced legislation this Congress. The disability is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) which results from prenatal alcohol exposure - the leading known cause of intellectual disability in the United States.

The FASD Respect Act (H.R. 4151 and S. 2238), is bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation introduced by Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Representatives Don Young (R-AK) and Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN). It will provide much needed resources and focus for our schools, health care providers and other care providers to recognize and understand this common, but invisible disability. Though there is no cure, we know that early diagnosis and appropriate interventions can make a significant difference in the life of a person with FASD.

The FASD Respect Act will also address prevention and the issues surrounding prevention of prenatal alcohol exposure. We know that drinking during pregnancy often happens due to lack of information, not knowing about the pregnancy, or an alcohol use disorder - it does not happen intentionally. Thoughtful public prevention measures are desperately needed.

This may affect your family in a direct way, but it affects all of our communities, states and country in so many ways - from reduced human potential to significant societal costs. Please contact your members of Congress today to ask for their support. You can go to www.nofaspolicycenter.org for more information.