

Jennifer Wisdahl

Subject: FW: e-DearColleague: Cosponsor the FASD RESPECT Act (H.R. 4151)

Patrick Maillet

Legislative Counsel
Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04)
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Please click [HERE](#) for our **FY2023 Appropriations** request forms. The deadline for submissions is currently TBD.

From: e-Dear Colleague <e-dearcolleague@housemail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Maillet, Patrick <Patrick.Maillet@mail.house.gov>
Subject: e-DearColleague: Cosponsor the FASD RESPECT Act (H.R. 4151)

Cosponsor the FASD RESPECT Act (H.R. 4151)

Sending Office: Honorable Betty McCollum
Sent By: Patrick.Maillet@mail.house.gov

Request for
Cosponsor(s)

Current cosponsors (36): Bishop, Beyer, Blunt Rochester, Bourdeaux, Brownley, Case, *Cheney*, Chu, Costa, Craig, Davids, Doggett, *Emmer*, Golden, *Huizenga*, Jackson Lee, Kahele, Kilmer, Barbara Lee, Mike Levin, Lofgren, Mann, McCollum*, Omar, Panetta, Phillips, Pingree, Raskin, Ross, Roybal-Allard, Schrier, Swalwell, Mike Thompson, Tonko, Trone, Wild, and *Young**

Endorsed by: Adoptive Family CARE, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), American Association of Social Workers, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Psychological Association, American Society of Addiction Medicine, The Arc of the United States, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, The Carter Center Mental Health Program, Child Welfare League of America, Center for Better Beginnings, Children's Advocacy Institute at The University of San Diego, Creating a Family Developmental Neurotoxicology Society (DNNTS), Faces and Voices of Recovery Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Consultation, Education and Training Services Leadership, Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND), Learning Disabilities Association of America, MARR Inc., National Association of Rural Mental Health, National Association of County Behavioral and Developmental Disability Directors, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, National Birth Defects Prevention Network, National

Congress of American Indians (Resolution REN-19-037), National Center for Learning Disabilities, National Disability Rights Network, National WIC Association, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, PACER Center, Society for Birth Defects Research

Dear Colleague,

Prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE) and the resulting disability of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) impact an alarmingly high percentage of children (up to 1 in 20) and adults in the United States. - - virtually a silent crisis as the leading known cause of neurodevelopmental disabilities. Those with FASD face profound social, cognitive, and emotional challenges. They need and deserve our help.

To help address FASD, we introduced the *Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services (FASD RESPECT) Act* (H.R. 4151), and urge you to cosponsor this bipartisan bill. This essential legislation charts a comprehensive approach to this health issue at all levels.

The already serious problem of prenatal alcohol exposure has heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC recently reported that nearly 14% (or 1 in 7) reported drinking during their pregnancies, an increase from 1 in 9. About 1 in 20 (5%) reported binge drinking in the past 30 days. Our bill addresses this surge through alcohol screening and intervention and other public health measures—and provides critically needed services for children and adults affected by FASD.

While most individuals with FASD show no physical signs of disability, they experience internal damage that affects the development of the brain, kidneys, heart and other body systems. As research shows that early intervention and understanding of the FASD disability can improve outcomes, H.R. 4151 authorizes programs and funding to aid individuals and families affected by FASD, establishes common standards of care, and increases the capacity to manage FASD in medical and mental health settings.

Recent enactments have addressed the opioid epidemic and neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) resulting from increased use of opioids during pregnancy (6 of every 1,000 live births). Yet, with polysubstance use quite common (over 40% of alcohol impacted pregnancies show use of one or more other substances), much more attention should focus on the need to screen, intervene, diagnose, and treat the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure. Note the Institute of Medicine’s warning: “Of all commonly misused substances, alcohol causes greater long lasting harm to the developing fetus than other drugs.” The FASD Respect Act galvanizes that much needed focus with a comprehensive approach to polysubstance prenatal substance exposures and a framework for federal, state, local, and tribal governments and private sector organizations to collaborate in addressing FASD and improve the outcomes of those affected. Below are the key elements of H.R. 4151:

A “National Advisory Council on FASD” consisting of parents, advocates, professional organizations, and experts to develop new recommendations for Congress based on the 2009 National FAS Task Force “Call to Action.”

Continued research at the National Institutes of Health, in coordination with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, based on a research agenda for FASD with grants for dissemination and implementation of findings.

A new Health Resources and Services Administration competitive grant program to build State and Tribal systems, based on strategic plans, to identify, treat, and support individuals with FASD and establish or expand FASD-informed clinical services and integrate them into existing systems of care.

Other FASD grant programs for medical experts, children, and their families, and a Center of Excellence to help build local, state, tribal, and national capacities to prevent the occurrence of FASD, including disorders and birth defects related to polysubstance use.

Programs for the Departments of Education and Justice to address FASD-related issues and fund training of professionals on the recognition and support for those with FASD.

More information on H.R. 4151 can be found [here](#). A section-by-section summary can be found [here](#). For questions or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Patrick Maillet (patrick.maillet@mail.house.gov) or Jesse von Stein (jesse.vonstein@mail.house.gov) in our respective offices.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

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