FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

IN MONTANA

Why The FASD Respect Act Needs Your Support

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong physical, developmental, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure

According to the CDC, FASD impacts as many as 1 in 20 in the US – 2.5x more than autism

Of the over 11,000 babies born annually in Montana, over 550 are estimated to have a FASD, far in excess of current diagnostic capacity

Roughly 85% of children seen in diagnostic clinics are either adoptees or are in foster care, children living with their biological parents lack access to diagnosis due to stigma and untrained medical staff

Most people with FASD won't qualify for disability services, even with a diagnosis

Over 90% of individuals with FASD will develop co-morbid mental health conditions

High rates of older youth and adults with FASD struggle with independent living and employment

Individuals with FASD, with or without a diagnosis, face high rates of incarceration and recidivism

Even at lower prevalence rates, the estimated average annual cost to Montana for FASD is over $6.6 Billion in health care, special education, residential care, productivity losses and corrections costs

Raising a child with FASD costs 30X more than the cost of successful prevention efforts

Of the 149,180 students in Montana schools, as many as 7,450 may have FASD, yet far fewer are diagnosed

FASD is not tracked in special education under IDEA, and most schools lack training and supports for students with FASD

Without appropriate diagnosis and support, students with FASD face higher than average school exclusion rates

An estimated 53,400 of the 1.068 Million people living in Montana could be impacted by FASD

For more information go to www.nofaspolicycenter.org

-Streissguth AP et al. (2004). Risk factors for adverse life outcomes in fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects. Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, 25, 228-238.
-A Multi-country Updated Assessment of the Economic Impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Costs for Children and Adults (J Addict Med 2018;12: 466–473) – subscription required.
-MacLachlan K et al. (2020). Difficulties in daily living experienced by adolescents, transition-aged youth and adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 44, 1609-1624
-Astley SA. (2004). Fetal alcohol syndrome prevention in Washington State: evidence of success. Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology, 18, 344-351.

The FASD Respect Act Builds a System of Care

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong physical, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. According to the CDC, FASD impacts as many as one in twenty Americans.

The provisions in this act can:

Support the creation of a State FASD Task Force and the creation of a state plan for FASD

Introduce the use of evidence-based FASD behavioral interventions

Supply trained mentors, housing assistance, vocational training and placement, **for adults with FASD**

Provide **resources and supports for individuals with FASD**, parents, caregivers and professionals

Integrate FASD informed care into existing programs and services

Decrease the recidivism rate for FASD in the justice system through the training of police, judges and prison staff

Reduce waste and increase the effectiveness of FASD programming through the creation of FASD Centers for Excellence

Expand diagnostic capacity to other cities through mentoring and training

Identify FASD under IDEA and provide training for schools on teaching students with FASD

Provide **FASD education** to **foster care** and **adoption** training programs

Build knowledge and capacity of professionals to identify individuals with a possible FASD diagnosis

Reduce the incidence of FASD through the reduction of substance exposed pregnancies

Improve recovery of adults and teens with FASD through FASD informed addictions treatment services.

FASD is a Bi-Partisan Issue

Senate Sponsors (S. 1800):

- Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK-R)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN-D)

House Sponsors (H.R. 3946):

- Don Bacon (NE-R)
- Betty McCollum (MN-D)

The FASD Respect Act

Building the Foundation for Change #FASDRESPECT

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