FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS
IN NORTH CAROLINA

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 118,700 babies born annually in North Carolina, over 5900 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 North Carolina for FASD is over $6.49 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 1.48 Million students in North Carolina schools, as many as 74,000 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 524,400 of the 10.49 Million people living in North Carolina could be impacted by FASD.

For more information go to www.nofaspolicycenter.org
The FASD Respect Act Builds a System of Care

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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)

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