

# FASD Respect Act

## Talking Points



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### FASD

- Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are a group of conditions that can occur in a person who was exposed to alcohol before birth. The effects can include mental health and learning disabilities, heart defects, hearing impairments, and more.

### Prevalence

- FASD is very common: **1 in 20 Americans has an FASD.**
- Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is just one diagnosis within the FASD spectrum and accounts for only 10% of those with an FASD. Those without distinctive facial features are equally impacted, but less recognized and less likely to receive appropriate supports.
- FASD is both underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed.

### Pregnancy and Alcohol

- CDC data shows that **1 in 7 pregnant people report drinking**, while 1 in 20 report binge drinking. There is no known safe amount of alcohol during pregnancy.

### Costs Associated with FASD

- **Investing in FASD-informed services and supports** can lead to positive, healthy outcomes while limiting the financial impact of FASD.



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### FASD Respect Act (S.1800/HR.3946)

- Reauthorizes FASD programs for education, public awareness, research, and building state and tribal capacity for identification, treatment, and support
- Establishes FASD Centers for Excellence to **build capacity to prevent prenatal alcohol exposure and to respond to the needs of individuals with FASD and their families.**
  - Assists states in addressing FASD inequities within their silos of care. Provides assistance to states with evidence-based programs so they can be duplicated.
- Federal funding for FASD has declined significantly since its original authorization in 1998 (see FASD Program Authorization and Funding for more)
- Broad, bipartisan support
  - 12 cosponsors in Senate, 51 cosponsors in House
  - Included in the Senate's Support Act by HELP Committee Ranking Member Cassidy (R-LA), which made it through HELP Committee.

*The Ask for Legislators:*

**Cosponsor S.1800/HR.3946,  
the FASD Respect Act**