

February 2024
Policy Forum

Wednesday February 26, 2025 Program Contact: Chris Melfi Melfi@FASDUnited.org 202-785-4585

> Jenn Wisdahl wisdahl@FASDUnited.org 202-601-2530





THE NATIONAL VOICE ON FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS
Formerly NOFAS

Organization Update















Affiliate Update



9TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

MARCH 20 - 23, 2025 HYATT REGENCY, SEATTLE, WA

Register Now

Save the Date(s)

March 3: FASD Symposium White Paper Release

September 15-17: FASD Impact Week 2025



WASHINGTON D.C. SEPTEMBER 16, 2024



The Bill

As approved by Senate HELP Committee

Education, Awareness and Services across community agencies

Building State and Tribal Systems

Centers for Excellence



Status

The 119th Congress Lasts for 2 years. The 119th ends in December 2026.

Step 1
The Bill is
Drafted with
Input from Key
Stakeholders

Step 2
Draft Bill
Reviewed by
Agencies,
Local
Constituents

Step 3
Draft Bill
Vetted
through
House and
Senate Legal
Council

Step 4
Bill is
Introduced
and Assigned
a Bill Number

Step 5 Bill is Heard in Committee Step 6
Bill is Sent to the Floor

Step 7
Bill is Voted
On

Step 8
Bill is Referred to
Senate/House for
Conference
Approval

Step 9
Bill is Sent to
the President
for Approval
into Law



Language Comparison



CR Provisions and S.139 Bill Text

Section 399H

Comprehensive FASD education, prevention, identification, intervention, and services delivery program (Secretary shall establish programs which *may* include:)

- 1) Education and Public Awareness
- 2) Research (diagnostic methods and interventions)
- 3) Building FASD State and Tribal Capacity-
- 4) Applied research program (advocacy, vocational training, PAE prevention, counseling, support services)

Language Comparison

BUILDING STATE AND TRIBAL CAPACITY FOR IDENTIFICATION, TREATMENT AND SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH FASD AND THEIR FAMILIES

- · Utilizing & adapting existing programs to include FASD identification and FASD-informed support
- · Developing & expanding screening and diagnostic capacity for FASD
- · Developing, implementing, and evaluating targeted FASD-intervention programs for FASD
- · Providing training with respect to FASD for professionals across relevant sectors
- · Disseminating information about FASD and support services to affected individuals and their families

Language Comparison

Section 3991

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND EDUCATION FOR FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (Secretary shall award grants – public or non-profit entities with demonstrated expertise in FASD)

- 1) Public education & awareness of risks of PAE
- 2) Clearinghouse for FASD prevention, identification & best practices
- 3) Awareness & understanding FASD intervention services & best practices
- 4) Providing technical assistance to recipients of grants under 399H

What's Happening

Meetings and Cosponsors

- New Cosponsors: Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Susan Collins (R-ME)
- **Federal-Level Meetings:** Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-4), and Representative Buddy Carter (R-GA-1).
- State-Level Meetings: Illinois State Rep. Jed Davis (HB 2511), Texas State Rep. Ana Hernandez (HB 2219), and Georgia Dept. of Community Health.
- More State Legislation Introduced: Kansas bills establishing FASD Task Force and declaring Sept. 9 as Kansas FASD Day



9 Cosponsors

Policy Landscape and Ways to Advocate

- **Budget Process:** House passed budget resolution. Budget reconciliation next step.
- Advocacy
 - Education: Meet with legislators
 - Communication: Op-ed, Letter to the editor
 - State Level: Identify champion, meet with state Dept of Health, request FASD Awareness Day recognition
- Reps in District
 - March 15th-March 23rd



Know

 The bill and the field are moving forward

Feel

 Empowered to share to your knowledge

Do

Educate and advocate