

FASD United Policy Forum

Summer Advocacy and September Impact

Wednesday
May 27th, 2026



*Policy & Training
Center*

Program Contact: Chris Melfi
Melfi@fasdunited.org
202-785-4585

Agenda



- ➔ FASD United Updates
- ➔ Federal Context and Budget
- ➔ Awareness Month Proclamation
- ➔ Hill Day in Context

Org. Updates

ICCFASD

- Interagency Coordinating Committee on FASD

International Policy Roundtable

- Canada, Ireland, Australia, DRC, Brazil, France

AUCD National Leadership Innovation Summit

Impact Week

- September 27th-30th, 2026 at Hyatt Regency Crystal City
- Symposium, Red Shoes Gala, Hill Day, Poster Reception, & more TBA!
- Hill Day Champions and Scheduling



Reach out to your Senators and Representative after registering for Impact Week to schedule your meetings for 9/29. FASD United will provide email templates and other support.

FASD Respect Act

Authorization

- Programs for education, training, and awareness
- Development of improved diagnostic and intervention methods
- State and Tribal Capacity Building
- National clearinghouse to inform systems of care

Intent

- Address FASD through lens of support and coordination
- Strengthen states' abilities to include FASD in existing systems
- Acknowledge lack of awareness and gaps in support

Lay of the Land

Elections

- Governors: 36 (18 incumbents not running)
- Senators: 35 (11 incumbents not running)
- Representatives: 435 (57 incumbents not running)

Why it Matters

- Staff stays on the Hill
- Schedule Hill Day meetings now
- Request proclamations early



Lay of the Land

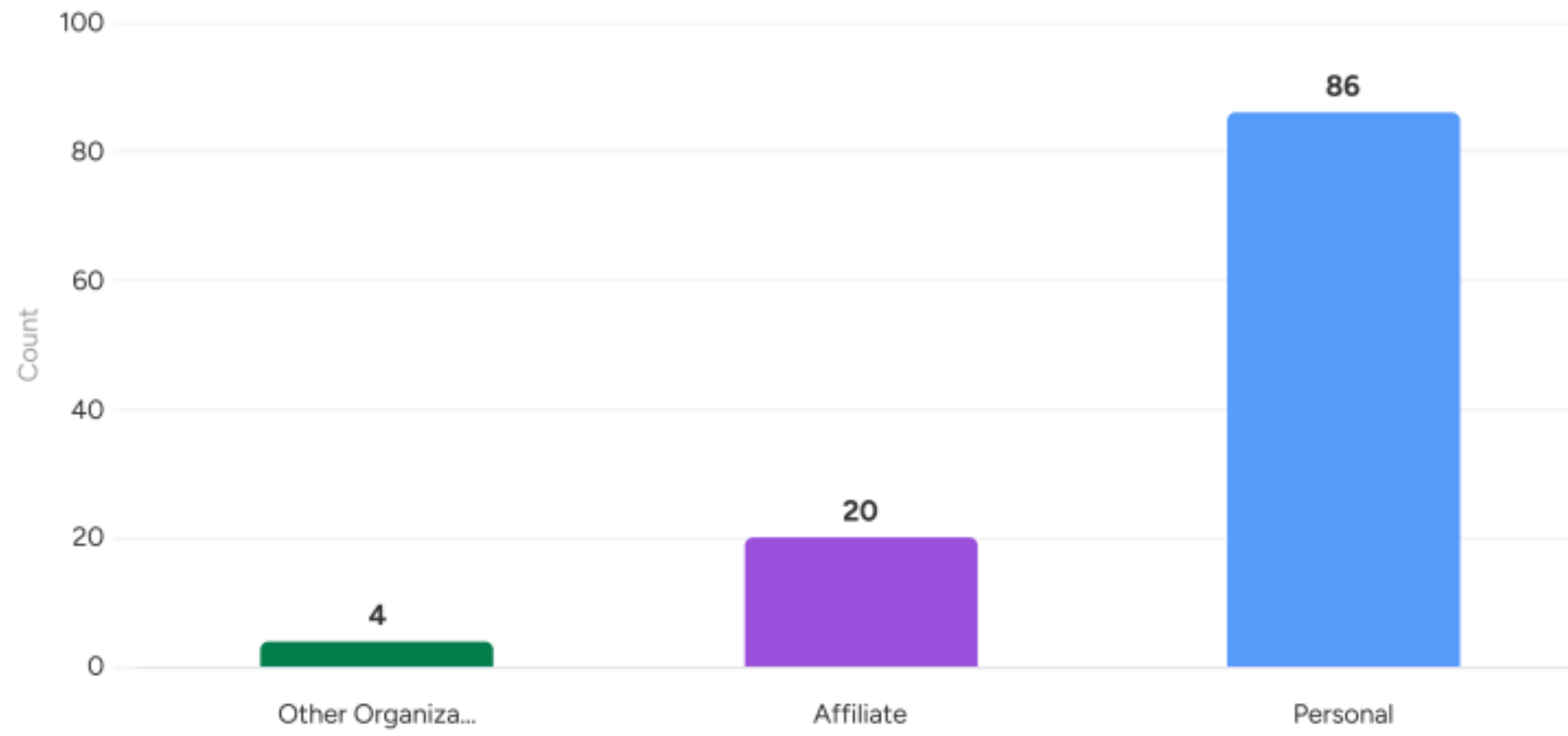
Outside Witness Testimony

- 100+ submitted
- Senate Committee markup (possibly late July)
- House markup scheduled for June 5
- Send your testimony to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative

The Asks

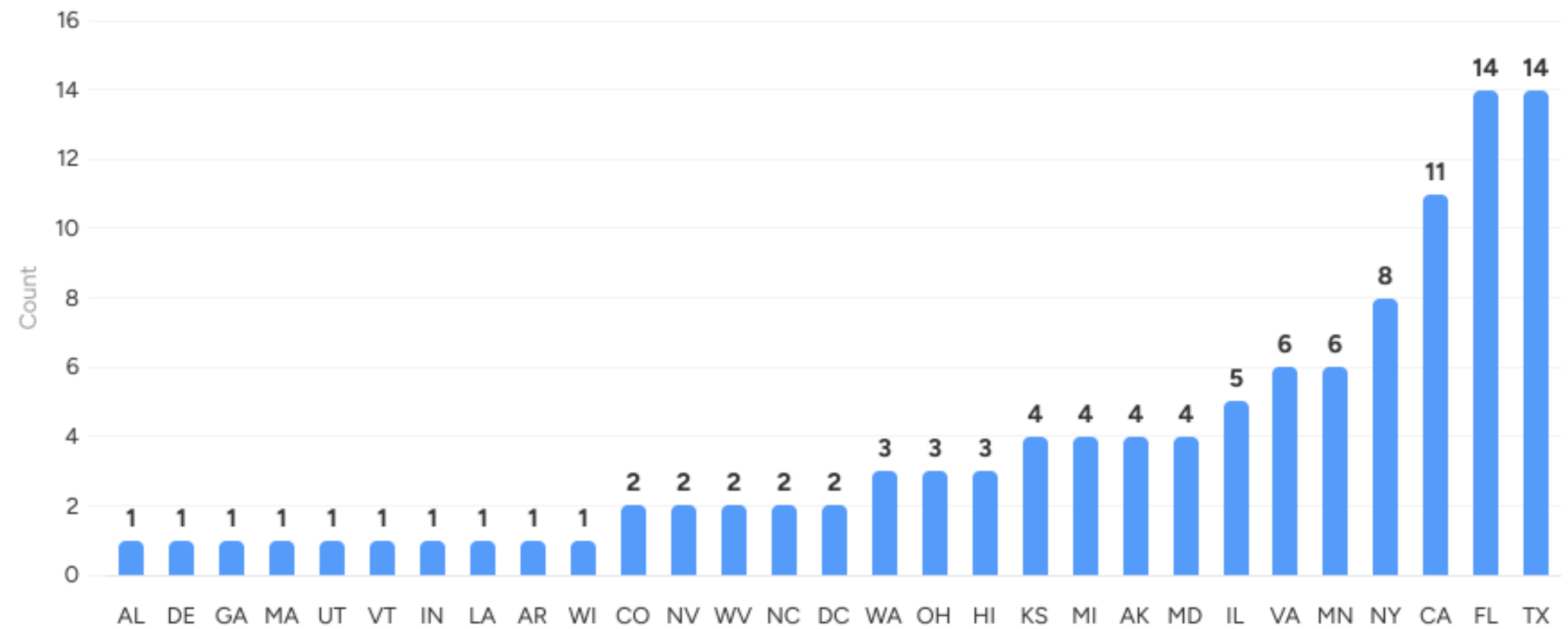
- \$21.5 M at CDC, or a \$10 M increase over FY26 enacted
 - CDC has existing non-research funding
 - Modest but realistic increase to help states get started
- Instructs Congress to fund what is authorized in Respect Act
- Supports funding FASD no matter where it lives





Submissions by Affiliates
and Individuals

Submissions by states



FASD

& Disability Justice Education Healthcare Addiction

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM
DISORDERS ARE AN "AND"
CONVERSATION

Hill Day

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026



Hill Day 2026

Step 1: Register

Step 2: Plan

Step 3: Work Together



<https://fasdunited.regfox.com/impact-week-2026>

Step 2: Plan

1. Find your members
2. Contact the scheduler
3. Log your meeting
4. Ask for support



house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative



FASD United can help you **identify your members & find a contact**

Step 2: Plan

1. Find your members

2. Contact the scheduler



3. Log your meeting

4. Ask for support

Good afternoon,

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a constituent from [STATE]. I will be in Washington D.C. as part of FASD Impact Week this September alongside over 100 self-advocates, families, professionals, and researchers. **I am reaching out to request a member-level meeting on September 29th to discuss how our state addresses FASD.** I would also be happy to meet with a member of your health or appropriations staff if [MEMBER NAME] is not available.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the impact of FASD in [STATE], the challenges families and individuals continue to face in accessing appropriate services and support, and how increased federal investment in newly authorized FASD programs can help states build capacity, improve outcomes, reduce long-term costs, and improve quality of life for individuals and families.

FASD is a lifelong, full-body disability resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure and is estimated to affect at least 1 in 20 school-aged children in the United States. Despite its prevalence, FASD remains widely underrecognized, and many families struggle to access diagnosis, support, education, and disability-related services.

Congress took an important step forward by including the FASD Respect Act in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025. As implementation moves forward, we hope to discuss how Congress can continue supporting these efforts and how investments in FASD education, identification, and services can directly benefit communities in [STATE].

We would greatly appreciate 30 minutes to meet with your office during FASD Impact Week. Please let me know if there may be availability on September 29th.



FASD United can help you **craft your message**

Step 2: Plan

1. Find your members
2. Contact the scheduler
3. Log your meeting
4. Ask for support



<https://bit.ly/HillDayLog>

- Date & Time
- Advocates Attending
- Member and Staff Name
- Meeting Location
- Open or Closed



FASD United can help you **keep track of meetings**

Step 2: Plan

1. **Find your members**

2. **Contact the scheduler**

3. **Log your meeting**

4. **Ask for support** →



FASD United can help:

- **Connect** with other advocates in your state
- **Find** a contact in your Members' offices
- **Coordinate** scheduling
- **Prepare** for meetings

Step 3: Work Together

1. Weekly Drop In



Wednesdays at 12 pm Eastern

2. Ask to be connected



Email melfi@fasdunited.org

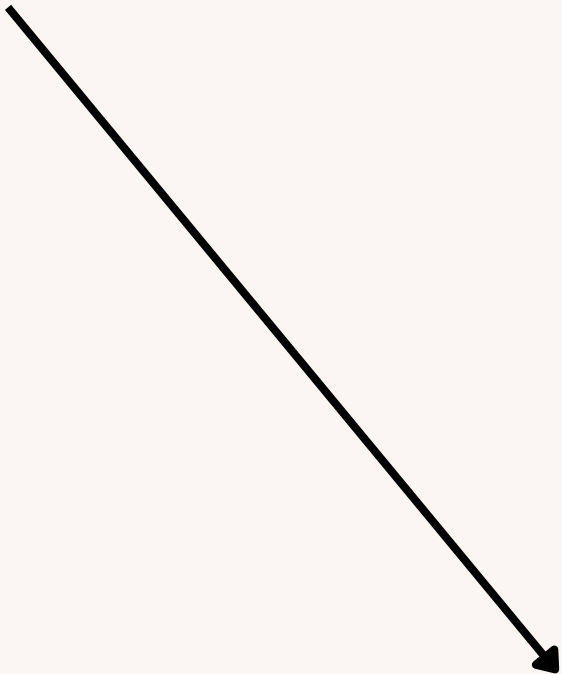
**3. Get listed on Policy
site**

Step 3: Work Together

1. Weekly Drop In

2. Ask to be connected

3. Get listed on Policy site



NY25

Joseph D. Morelle

D

Committees: House Commission on Communications Standards (Ranking Member), Joint Committee on Printing, Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, House Administration (Ranking Member), Appropriations
Subcommittees: **Defense**

Cosponsor:
117th, 118th

NY26

Timothy M. Kennedy

D

Committees: Veterans' Affairs, Homeland Security

Not sure which district you are in? [Find your representative here.](#)

State Legislation

These are FASD-related bills introduced or enacted in this state. Enacted bills are now law. Introduced bills are still moving through the legislature and your outreach to state legislators can make a difference. Know of a bill that is not listed? Email melfi@fasdunited.org.

No state legislation on file.

Advocacy Contact

Is there an FASD advocate in your state who should be listed here? We want to connect advocates across the country. Email melfi@fasdunited.org to be listed or to find out who else is working on FASD in your state.

CM

Chris Melfi

FASD United

Test

Want to connect with advocates in New York or get listed here? Email melfi@fasdunited.org, join our weekly **Policy Drop-Ins**, or our monthly **Policy Forums**.

Proclamations

A Chance for Coordinated Advocacy

What?

- Recognition of September/September 9th as FASD Awareness Month/Day

How?

- Request forms

Who?

- State advocates (1 per state!)

When?

- State-dependent, but start early!



<https://nofaspolicycenter.org/help-your-governor-issue-an-fasd-awareness-day-proclamation/>

**Goal: FASD Awareness
Proclamation from each
state**

The Next Step



What will **YOU**
do in the next 30 days?



Register for Impact Week and Hill Day

1. **Register** for Impact Week and Hill Day
2. **Contact** your Members' offices to request meetings on 9/29
3. **Coordinate** a proclamation request to your Governor with advocates in your state.