

SB 2232
House Human Services Committee
69th Legislative Session

Chair Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Dr. Erica Hofland. I am a practicing Obstetrician Gynecologist in Dickinson and I am writing asking for your support for SB 2232.

Substance use disorder is a medical condition that is seen in various patient encounters including the provision of pregnancy and postpartum care. Treatment of substance use disorders can be impaired by outdated mandated reporting laws. Restrictive laws can lead to concealment of substance abuse by a patient and therefore lead to a delay in appropriate therapy and treatment. In the most extreme, outdated reporting laws can also lead to significant delays to entry into care which places both a patient and pregnancy at risk for preventable complications. This bill will allow me to reassure my patients that physician teams are allies. Our questions and request for personal information on substance use is meant to be supportive, not punitive. This open communication will aid physician-patient decision making about treatment plans and options for management of substance use disorders. Should these patient driven plans for treatment not be followed there is still a pathway to notify local agencies to ensure safety of the neonate.

I ask that this Committee and the Legislature support SB 2232. I would be happy to provide any other information this Committee requires.

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