

HCR 3011

Good morning Chairman Weisz and members of the committee! For the record I am Rep. Bernie Satrom and am honored to serve the great people of District 12 in Jamestown.

In 2015 our legislature passed SB2367 which established the ND Task Force for Substance abused newborns. They identified a considerable lack of data on the incidence as well as effectiveness of measures to prevent and address it. As well as a lack of information on whether these problems are increasing or decreasing.

In 2019 Dr. Larry Burd from UND Published a Report to the ND Task Force on Substance Exposed Newborns which answered some of the questions.

This morning I bring before you a request for a followup study on the topic of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or FAS is caused when a woman drinks alcohol while pregnant.

Drinking while pregnant can result in the child struggling with ADHD, Depression, Cognitive impairment, Intellectual Disability, Learning Disabilities, Substance abuse, Judgement Defects to name a few plus according to a Canadian study makes someone 19 times more likely to be incarcerated.

It is totally preventable.

ND Rates #3 in FASD births behind Wisconsin and the District of Columbia. Resulting in an estimated 330 FASD births at a cost of \$1 million each over the first 43 years of life.

US as many as 16% of pregnant women with no history of alcohol dependence drank alcohol in the last month of pregnancy.

ND had 3400 women using alcohol during pregnancy in 2017 and there were 162 women who drank during all 40 weeks of pregnancy. Women who breastfeed caused increased rates of neurobehavioral and growth deficits.

Plus the negative of effects of drinking while pregnant are multigenerational. When A pregnant woman drinks she exposes herself the fetus and the fetal germline. Mothers of children with FASD have a 44.82 fold increase in mortality risk and 87% of the deaths occurred in women under the age of 50.

How can we reduce the prevalence of FASD? What should we do next? I think it is worth a followup conversation Lets do a study and figure it out.

Thank you for your time. I will stand for any questions.