

American Association of  
Child & Adolescent  
Psychiatry

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
527 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Don Bacon  
2104 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sens. Klobuchar and Murkowski and Reps. Bacon and McCollum:

On behalf of the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), the professional home to more than 11,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists, fellows, residents, and medical students, I am writing to express support for your important legislation, H.R. 3946/S. 1800, the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Respect Act.

As you know, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) impacts as high as 1 to 5 per 100 school-aged children.<sup>1</sup> A child with fetal alcohol syndrome may have specific abnormal facial features, small head size, and problems with development including delayed language learning and poor impulse control. Children with fetal alcohol syndrome are at high risk for problems, such as Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), intellectual disability, learning problems, and emotional issues.<sup>2</sup>

While there is no cure for FASD, early diagnosis and intervention are important and helpful for children with fetal alcohol syndrome to prevent possible behavioral disorders and help with learning. However, gaps exist in FASD-related diagnostic and clinical resources. Because of a severe shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists, and many primary care physicians having limited knowledge of diagnostic criteria and clinical guidelines, children who may have FASD are often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Your efforts to reauthorize and enhance programs to promote FASD prevention are critically needed.

AACAP stands ready to assist in moving this important legislation forward and greatly appreciates your leadership. If AACAP can be of any further assistance, please contact Ben Melano at [bmelano@aacap.org](mailto:bmelano@aacap.org).

Sincerely,



Tami D. Benton, MD  
President

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/fasd/data/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF\\_Guide/Fetal\\_Alcohol\\_Syndrome-134.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF_Guide/Fetal_Alcohol_Syndrome-134.aspx)