



Advocacy

NOFAS promotes the prevention of FAS/FASD and supports a better quality of life for individuals and families affected by the disorder.

NOFAS Legislative Update

August 8, 2006

NOFAS Briefs Members of the House of Representatives on the Lifelong Effects of FASD

On July 19, NOFAS co-sponsored a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill in conjunction with the Congressional Caucus on FASD. Addressing an audience of over 50 congressional staffers, a distinguished panel of experts and family advocates shared their FASD expertise, experiences living with the disorder and priorities for prevention, education and services. Dr. Luther Robinson, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the State University of New York School of Medicine and Biomedical

Sciences who has been diagnosing individuals with FASD for over 15 years, shared the medical and physiological aspects of the issue. In a powerful presentation, Jennifer Goudy, a parent of two adolescents with FASD, expressed frustration with her local school system's inability to deal with her children's

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— Congressman Jim Ramstad

needs. Describing some of the challenges her children face, Jennifer remarked, “We need teachers who are trained to understand the issue—not just special education teachers—but all those who would interact with these children.”

The briefing was held in the Rayburn House Office Building and was attended by several senior health and justice policy advisors and other congressional staffers. Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN), co-chair of the caucus emphasized in his heartfelt remarks, “FASD is 100% preventable. The future of our children is in our hands.” Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), lead sponsor of the FASD Bill HR 4212 and caucus co-chair remarked, “Given the present political climate it is important not to lose sight of those issues that matter to all of us—the well-being of all of our children”.

Kathy Mitchell, NOFAS Vice President, and Kay Kelly, Legal Issues Director at the University of Washington, also served as panelists. Kay shared her experience dealing with individuals in the criminal justice system and the lack of support that exists for them, and Kathy Mitchell, mother of a 33 year old daughter with FAS, talked about her personal battle with substance abuse and lifelong dedication to the issue.

Help Reauthorize the National Task Force on FAS/FAE

The National Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect is a congressionally mandated task force charged with:

- Advising all governmental agencies, academic bodies, and community groups that conduct or support fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect research, programs, and surveillance, and
- Meeting the general needs of populations actually or potentially impacted by fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect.

It is extremely important for the FASD field to reauthorize the task force.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fas/taskforce.htm>

To help reauthorize the National Task Force on FAS/FAE please visit our Capwiz website: <http://capwiz.com/nofas/home/>



NOFAS is grateful to **U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK) for her tireless leadership on FASD. The United States Senate recently passed Senator Murkowski's resolution recognizing September 9, 2006 as **“National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day.”**

For more on Senate resolution 499, please visit:

<http://capwiz.com/nofas/issues/bills/?bill=8953166>

NOFAS Welcomes Three New Representatives to the Congressional Caucus on FASD



Representative Patrick Tiberi (R- OH) is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Education, a panel that oversees programs and services for the at-risk youth and domestic volunteer programs. Rep. Tiberi's experience will be helpful in the caucus' efforts.



Representative Edolphus Towns (D- NY) "Ed" Towns has been extremely active in a variety of legislative efforts to improve health care services and strengthen education systems. FASD is the most recent addition to his agenda and with his expertise and experience he will prove to be a valuable member of the caucus.



Representative Jim McDermott (D- WA) As a physician, Rep. McDermott is especially interested in health care issues, and believes that the government should guarantee health care coverage for all Americans. He founded and chairs the Congressional Task Force on International HIV/AIDS. Rep. McDermott recognizes the importance of educating his colleagues on FASD, and his presence on the caucus will most certainly be beneficial.

For details on the Congressional Caucus and to view an updated list of members, please visit the caucus website at: http://www.house.gov/pallone/fasd_caucus/welcome.shtml

Senate Full Committee Moves FY 2007 SAMHSA Appropriations Forward – Votes to Add \$30 Million to SAPT Block Grant

On Thursday, July 20, the full Senate Appropriations Committee considered and passed a bill with proposed FY 2007 funding levels for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education– including those within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Committee is chaired by Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) and the most senior Democrat or "Ranking Member" is Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV). Of particular interest to NOFAS, the full Committee added \$30 million to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, a National Association of State Alcohol Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) sponsored request.

For more on this please visit NASADAD at <http://www.nasadad.org/>.

Senate Approves Res. 532 Promoting National Children and Families Day

To learn more about this resolution, visit: <http://www.womenspolicy.org/thesource/article.cfm?ArticleID=2129>

Senate Passes Bill to Amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and Aid Disadvantaged Youth

For information on this bill, visit: <http://www.womenspolicy.org/thesource/article.cfm?ArticleID=2133>

NOFAS supports the STOP Underage Drinking Act

Please support this bill and visit: <http://www.cspinet.org/booze/040726STOPAA.htm>

CALL TO ACTION!!

Call your representatives today and ask them to sign on to the following important FASD bills:

[HR.4212](#): Advancing FASD Research, Prevention and Services Act (S.1722 in the Senate)



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