



Alaska Center for  
**Fetal**  
**Alcohol**  
**Spectrum**  
**Disorders**

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March 21, 2024

Representative Andrew Gray  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 298

Dear Representative Gray,

The Board of Directors for the Alaska Center for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) supports HB 298 and the intent to draw attention to the health impacts of alcohol misuse.

Alcohol is a neurotoxin, meaning that it permanently damages cells. Damage can happen prenatally in the developing fetus, or later throughout a person's life from repeated misuse. Common impacts include damage to the brain, which regulates mental health and addiction behaviors, emotional regulation, learning and impulse control, as well as impacts to physical health, such as breast cancer, colon cancer, kidney, and/or liver function.

The Board appreciates that the committee is considering adding "fetal alcohol spectrum disorder" as an example of a birth defect resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure. Adding language to the signs that currently hang in establishments selling alcohol, is both educational and preventative for the members of the public.

Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Alaska Center for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders