

February 19, 2013

Dear Senators Johnson, Murkowski, and Begich:

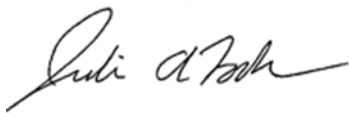
On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I would like to thank you for your strong leadership in reintroducing the Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act to improve research, prevention, and services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

According to researchers at our University Centers, nearly 1 in 1,000 births results in a baby being born with FASD with high costs to our society. Outcomes related to FASD include disrupted school experience, inappropriate sexual behavior, trouble with the law, confinement, and substance use problems. The cost of supporting one person over a lifetime with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is estimated to be between \$2.0 and \$2.9 million. People who have FAS make up about one-quarter of persons who have an FASD.

To address the devastating impact of this totally preventable cause of intellectual and developmental disabilities, this bill requires the National Institutes of Health to develop a research agenda, improve FASD screening and prevention programs and facilitate the development of statewide systems and community partnerships. The bill would provide grants to determine and implement the best practices for educating children with FASD within the school system, as well as educating professionals about services for children. Further, funding would also be made available to improve services for individuals with FASD who are incarcerated or otherwise involved in the justice system. The comprehensive nature of this act creates an opportunity to not only help thousands of families and individuals affected by FASD, but also to significantly impact critical efforts in prevention and research.

AUCD appreciates your effort towards seeking balance between directing federal resources to prevention and research activities and services for individuals living with FASD and their families. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that such legislation passes. If you have any questions or need further support, please contact me or Kim Musheno, Director of Legislative Affairs, in our national office at [kmusheno@aucd.org](mailto:kmusheno@aucd.org).

Sincerely,



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