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**Senate Bill 340**  
**Sponsor Testimony**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**  
**November 17, 2020**

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 340.

This legislation is to require that places selling alcohol to display a warning regarding the risk of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are a group of conditions that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol while pregnant. This can include physical problems and problems with behavior and learning. According to the CDC, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) represents the most involved end of the spectrum<sup>1</sup>. People with FAS have central nervous system (CNS) problems, minor facial features, and growth problems. People with FAS can have problems with learning, memory, attention span, communication, vision, or hearing. They might have a mix of these problems. People with FAS often have a hard time in school and trouble getting along with others.

This bill will require a sign to be posted in any location that sells alcohol. The language of the warning will be as follows: "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Warning: The Consumption of Alcohol During Pregnancy May Result in Birth Defects". There will be an amendment that we hope the committee will consider at a later date to changes the language from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Warning to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Warning.

The bill states that the sign (distributed by the Division of Liquor Control) shall be no smaller than 8.5 x 11 inches in size and that any establishment found in violation during an inspection will have this infraction noted in the inspection form. This information will be

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/facts.html>

posted to the Division of Liquor Control website. Physical inspections that routinely take place would check for this sign. There would be no criminal consequences or proceedings that would strip liquor permits for failure to display this card. Our intent with this legislation is to educate and bring awareness to the dangers of alcohol consumption while pregnant.

Currently both Kentucky and West Virginia require a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome warning to be displayed in locations that sell alcohol. 21 other states and the District of Columbia require signs to be posted in retail establishments<sup>2</sup>.

This legislation was brought to me by a constituent Bonnie Schuman, who in conjunction with Prevention Action Alliance, have been working to bring awareness to the dangers of FASD to those who may not know.

Chairman Hoagland and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 340. We are happy to answer any questions that the committee might have.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://pages.uoregon.edu/gcil/Cil\\_AWS.pdf](https://pages.uoregon.edu/gcil/Cil_AWS.pdf)