

Ohio Senate
Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
12/9/2020

Good Afternoon, Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent in consideration of Senate Bill 340 (SB 340).

I am a parent of two adopted children affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. At the time I took these children into my home I was an elementary school teacher with experience teaching grades 2,3,4,5, and 6. I noticed that the children had some issues. On some mornings my son could not remember how to get dressed.

Over time I taught my children how to read. But I could not enable them to comprehend what they had read.

What also concerned me was their inability to generalize ideas like not running into the street - from one street to another street. They finally learned to look both ways before crossing the street in front of our house. But they didn't understand that the rule for crossing streets was for any street. Thankfully they managed to learn this skill.

Being able to remember what they had learned the day before in school was a challenge. We went over homework so long. The information was understood the night before and gone the next day on the quiz.

Acceptable behavior was also a concern. How to teach social cues that other children pick up easily?

How do you teach someone who has seen abuse to not hit his sister?

How do you teach right and wrong? How do you teach right and wrong? That requires remembering and learning from past experience.

Acceptable social distance for talking. How do you teach that? Somehow, we learned how to teach that.

All of these problems are preventable. A simple sign warning of the danger of mixing pregnancy and alcohol consumption can make all the difference for a child and their family. When a woman is pregnant, alcohol damages the child because the baby's organs are not developed enough to remove alcohol. A sign. That is all it takes for some people. Just a sign. It can make the difference for a lifetime. It can affect generations - enabling each generation to protect the next generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present some of my experiences.