

SB 216
Opponent Testimony
Julie Boetger
February 7, 2022

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer opponent testimony for SB 216.

My name is Julie Boetger and I am writing today in opposition to SB 216.

I can not support a bill that separates families and this is why;

- **A positive drug test does not determine a person's ability to be a good parent.**
- **Our systems are overburdened already and families benefit from staying together.**
- **The reunification demands are not realistic. Relapse is an inherent part of recovery, penalizing people for this and increasing the length of time their child is removed from them does not support recovery.**
- **[Research](#) shows separating a child from her parent(s) has detrimental, long-term emotional and psychological consequences that may be worse than leaving the child at home. This is due to the trauma of removal itself, as well as the unstable nature of, and high rates of abuse in, foster care.**
- **Literature shows that states with punitive policies for substance use in pregnancy have less people engaged in the best treatment for OUD in pregnancy, MOUD, and have worse Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) outcomes. * (citations below thanks to Avery Meyer)**

This is why I am asking for a NO vote on SB 216.

Sincerely,
Julie Boetger
Julieb44004@yahoo.com
440-997-5212

- American Obstetrics and Gynecology. Opioid Use and Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy [Internet]. ACOG | Clinical. Available from: <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2017/08/opioid-use-and-opioid-use-disorder-in-pregnancy#>
- Angelotta C, Weiss CJ, Angelotta JW, Friedman RA. A Moral or Medical Problem? The Relationship between Legal Penalties and Treatment Practices for Opioid Use Disorders in Pregnant Women. *Women's Health Issues*. 2016 Nov;26(6):595–601.
- Faherty LJ, Kranz AM, Russell-Fritch J, Patrick SW, Cantor J, Stein BD. Association of Punitive and Reporting State Policies Related to Substance Use in Pregnancy With Rates of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2019 Nov 13;2(11):e1914078.