

- People use substances for many reasons and not all people who use drugs are addicted.
- 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)

Please do not pass this bill. We need policies that help build healthier families through care and compassion, not punishment and separation.