



Letter of Information

House Bill 1335 - Perinatal Care - Drug and Alcohol Testing and Screening - Consent

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 10, 2022

ACNM wishes to offer our concerns regarding H.B. 1335. The standard of care during pregnancy for any parental substance use evaluation is the use of a validated screening tool. Every pregnant individual should be screened in this way regardless of prior history. Biological testing (e.g., urine or blood tests) are not considered the first line standard. The use of a biologic test is not diagnostic of a substance use disorder, particularly in the provider office setting.

Consent should be obtained for any laboratory test performed during pregnancy. In the case of testing for substance use, consent should include the legal and social consequences that an individual could encounter as the result of a positive test.

The American College of Nurse-Midwives supports legislation that:

- Protects the rights of individuals with addiction so that they may seek health care without fear of criminal retribution.
- Encourages the development of public health programs that address innovative interventions to treat addiction in pregnancy.
- Promotes education and research into this significant public health issue.
- Allows midwives to support patients and families with addiction challenges across the lifespan.¹

If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

1. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy. 2018. <https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/000000000052/PS-Substance-Use-Disorders-in-Pregnancy-FINAL-20-Nov-18.pdf>