

HB0833

I am a trustee of a Baltimore foundation. Two of our primary purposes are to support efforts to give families a successful start and to reduce the number of children who end up in the child welfare system.

As the Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University tells us: “early experiences affect the development of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health”. If your early experiences are being taken away from your mother, you will likely begin life with compromised development of the brain architecture.

Again, from the Center for the Developing Child:” The more adverse experiences in childhood, the greater the likelihood of developmental delays and later health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, and depression. Research also indicates that supportive, responsive relationships with caring adults as early in life as possible can prevent or reverse the damaging effects of toxic stress response.”

Finally, there is evidence that some parents who might seek treatment, avoid it because they have no safe place to leave their children.

Please support this bill. It will make all the difference for families struggling with substance abuse and for the communities they live in.

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