

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

INTRODUCED BY WINDY BOY, LEWIS, J. TROPILA, SQUIRES, CAMPBELL, BOSS RIBS, HENRY,
HAMILTON, CAFERRO, BELCOURT, HUNTER, MCALPIN, AUGARE, HOLLENBAUGH

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDY THE EFFECTS OF PRENATAL DRUG USE ON CHILDREN BORN TO MOTHERS WHO USE ILLEGAL OR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS DURING PREGNANCY.

WHEREAS, studies have shown that prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause birth defects, developmental disabilities, and neurodevelopmental disorders; and

WHEREAS, Montana has established public health programs aimed at reducing the use of alcohol by pregnant women as a way of preventing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, less evidence exists regarding the direct ties between birth defects and developmental disorders for infants and children whose mothers used illegal or prescription drugs, but early studies have shown that developmental problems may exist; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an interest in preventing birth defects and other problems that may be caused by the use of illegal or prescription drugs during pregnancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the effects of prenatal use of illegal or prescription drugs on children, including but not limited to methamphetamine, hydrocodone, METHADONE PATCHES, and oxycodone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study efforts include the following items and activities:

- (1) compiling information from existing national and state studies on the immediate and the long-term effects on children born to mothers who used illegal or prescription drugs during pregnancy;
- (2) reviewing existing programs in Montana and elsewhere that are designed to:
 - (a) prevent the use of illegal or prescription drugs during pregnancy;

- 1 (b) identify children born to mothers who use illegal or prescription drugs; or
2 (c) identify the effects that drug use during pregnancy has had on children born to mothers who used
3 illegal or prescription drugs;
- 4 (3) determining whether long-term tracking of children born to mothers who use drugs during pregnancy
5 is possible and should be undertaken in Montana; and
- 6 (4) determining whether services should be developed for children born to mothers who use drugs during
7 pregnancy.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study engage the public and relevant stakeholders, including but
9 not limited to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, tribal health departments, hospitals,
10 physicians, and organizations involved in child and maternal health.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
12 requirements, be completed prior to September 15, 2010.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
14 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 62nd Legislature.

15 - END -