

Pre-Natal Care and Treatment without Fear of Prosecution for Substance Using Women



YWU understands that pregnant women who are substance using and seeking pre-natal care deserve rights to appropriate care and treatment without fear of prosecution.

Access to Appropriate Care and Treatment for all Women

We are concerned about the rights of substance using pregnant women

- The best way to ensure the health of a family is to support the women who have decided on that family, no matter the circumstances of the mother.
- All too often substance using women seeking pre-natal care for the well-being of their coming child and themselves are attempting to access care amidst disrespect and unjust criminalization of their families.
- Equally concerning, substance using pregnant women who show up to the different types of Treatment Centers across the state and are often denied treatment because of their pregnancy.

YWU is part of a strong legislative effort intended to improve access to quality and appropriate care and treatment for women that are substance using. Together, these two memorials and three bills, focus on the accessibility of care and treatment for pregnant who are substance using. YWU knows how essential pre-natal care is to the health of a family, and we value Treatment Centers in our communities. The complicated nature of providing care and treatment during pregnancy must not keep us from providing access to these services.

HM13 Gender-Specific Treatment Standards, *Sponsored by Rep. Mimi Stewart*

With overwhelming evidence showing the effectiveness of gender-specific treatment standards, HM13 will establish such standards that reflect the particular barriers faced by girls and women in accessing treatment.

HM14 Oversight Memorial, *Sponsored by Rep. Gail Chasey*

Mandates creation of a Task Force to implement recommendations of SM19 Task Force, which set out to improve care and treatment for substance using pregnant women. HM14 also sets up a committee of providers working in pre-natal care- this committee will establish a set of best practices that layout standards of how to best care for women and their pregnancies without criminalizing their substance use in a way that is unjust, unnecessary and harmful for NM families.

SB353 Substance Abuse and Family Planning Services, *Sponsored by Sen. Linda Lopez, Sen. Sue WilsonBeffort*

Requires Treatment Centers to provide or refer patients to Family Planning Services

SB354 Substance Abuse and Pregnant Women Services, *Sponsored by Sen. Linda Lopez, Sen. Sue WilsonBeffort*

Requires that Treatment Centers providing treatment to women also provide treatment to pregnant women, unless medically unadvised

Strong Women and Families

Join YWU and many other organizations, law-makers, health-care providers and families that are working together to create an effective web of services in which women may access care and treatment without fear of criminalization.

To hear more about this issue from Young Women United, contact Micaela Cadena at 575.644.5830 or mcadena@youngwomenunited.org

Young Women United is a community organizing project by and for young women of color in Albuquerque. YWU believes the voices and leadership of young women of color carry the power to create better communities for all people.

We believe in creating healthier ways to live, work, play, and pray!

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