

Treatment Providers Alliance
of



Colorado

April 23, 2013

Attachment E

Senator Linda Newell
Senator Andy Kerr
Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Senate Bill 13-278

Creating A Definition of a "Drug Endangered Child" With Respect To Child Abuse or Neglect

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Treatment Providers Alliance of Colorado, I write in support of SB13-278. This bill will provide an important piece to insure the welfare and safety of children. In environments where drugs are used, manufactured and distributed, the safety of children must be given the highest priority with all of us who have a duty to report. In these depraved living conditions, neglect and abuse of children are not only grave possibilities. They are more often than not probabilities. Overlooked innocent children become collateral damage in environments where no advocacy or protection is provided for them.

Those of us who specialize in addiction often work with adults who as children were reared in homes where drugs were used, manufactured and distributed. A recent case of mine involved a 24 year old male. He related stories of how he and his little sister would crouch in the hallway of their small home watching drug dealers and drug users come in and out of their home to purchase the methamphetamine being manufactured by his parents. Around ages 4 and 2, they were removed from the home and put into foster care. They were separated in their respective placements. The lasting damage on this young man was significant cognitive impairments and physical under development. The damage to each of these children's emotional development was irreparable. His younger sister committed suicide at age 14. He had made two previous attempts on his life.

Advocacy and protection for children growing up in drug infested environments must be provided and given the highest priority. These children have no voice to ask for the help they need. We must listen very carefully to what they cannot say. Please support SB13-278.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Moreau".

Karen Moreau, PhD

President

Treatment Providers Alliance of Colorado

cc: Sgt. Jim Gerhardt, North Metro Task Force

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