



PO BOX 14495 · PORTLAND, OR 97293

# Women's Commission

ON ALCOHOL  
AND DRUG ISSUES  
OF OREGON

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## Senate Bill 445

The Woman's Commission on Drug and Alcohol Issues of Oregon supports Senate Bill 445, which "requires marijuana facilities and marijuana retailers to post at facility or on premises of retail location notice of harmful effect of marijuana on pregnant women and potential for marijuana to cause birth defects."

We support the bill for the following reasons:

1. Using marijuana during pregnancy can effect negatively both the brain development and behavior of the child.\*
2. Using marijuana during pregnancy increases health risks to pregnant women because: it acts as an irritant to the lungs which increases the risk of lung infections; it raises the heart rate 20-100 percent shortly after smoking it for up to 3 hours, increasing the risk of heart attack during the first hour; and it seriously impairs judgment and motor coordination.\*
3. For pregnant women who also have mental health problems, it can worsen the course of their illness.\*
4. All of the above risks may increase the health costs of pregnant women and her children. The risks may also negatively affect the new mother's ability to provide adequate parenting and increase the need for community services for both the child and the mother.

Senate Bill 445 is sponsored by Senator's Monnes Anderson, Boquist, Devlin, Edwards, Steiner, Hayward, and Thomsen of the Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015.

*\*The above information was based on the January 2014 and 2015 publications of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.*

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### WCADIO's Mission

To increase public awareness of women's alcohol and drug abuse issues and to promote services related to women throughout the state of Oregon. This means ALL women who are affected by their own alcohol or drug use or that of their family or friends.