



## **Imprisoning Pregnant Women Act AB 994**

This bill is designed to punish and imprison pregnant women who are addicted to controlled substances and permits these women to be charged with a variety of crimes, including attempted intentional homicide and reckless homicide.

This bill also allows a host of criminal penalties to be imposed on pregnant women by redefining the “delivery” of controlled substances to include drugs a pregnant woman ingests. The pregnant woman essentially is treated like a drug dealer, and subject to numerous criminal charges and penalties for “delivering” controlled substances to her fertilized egg, embryo or fetus.

This bill allows a woman who isn't yet pregnant but has a fertilized egg that hasn't implanted in the wall of the uterus (which is required for pregnancy to occur) to be charged with delivering a controlled substance to an “unborn child”, though no pregnancy has yet developed and may not develop.

**This bill makes it more difficult for some pregnant women to seek the help they need.**

This bill neither facilitates drug treatment for pregnant women nor affords them access to quality prenatal care. On the contrary, this bill will actually discourage drug addicted pregnant women from seeking treatment and needed medical care because of a fear of being criminally charged and incarcerated.

This bill also does nothing to increase access to birth control and other family planning methods that could assist drug-addicted women in preventing pregnancy in the first place.

**This bill is too broad and too intrusive.**

Equally concerning is that this bill is so broad that it could result in women being charged with serious crimes for taking a host of medications if those medications belong to another, even if she is not pregnant or has no knowledge that she is pregnant. This is the height of governmental intrusion into a woman's private, reproductive life.