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Testimony of Noelle Hoey 3/27/2025

Hello committee members, my name is Noelle Hoey and I am here today to speak to my own experience as a pregnant individual that is in long term recovery and utilizing medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

I have personally found a combination of counseling and MOUD to be very helpful in maintaining my recovery and have had sustained recovery since 2019. I am the program manager for a team of peer recovery partners that connect with people that are seeking support around their substance use challenges. I am also currently 7 months pregnant with my first child. As a result of my work I have heard many stories of women that are on MOUD and in recovery that have given birth and the many challenges they have encountered due to this. This has left me with many fears for my own coming childbirth and what may come with that. I worry about many aspects of what is to come for one of the biggest events of my life, the upcoming birth of my first child. Added to them is the fact that the organization that I work for has policies in place that do not allow the hiring of people that have ever had a CPS report opened. I have fears about my job going forward or future positions that I may be interested in applying for and if this will prevent me from doing so.

It feels that people in recovery that already face many challenges are having more put into place with this legislation. People being at risk of the many things that can come with CPS involvement even if that was not the intention, makes the challenges and fears that come with childbirth so much greater. This could be so damaging to peoples lives and set back their recoveries. It impacts the mothers, fathers, and children involved. It can impact people's careers. It is my hope that the mandatory infant exposure reporting requirement for parents in long-term stable recovery who deliver while receiving Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) will be removed, allowing for people in recovery to move forward with their lives, creating a family for themselves and all the other strides they have made.