

Patrons

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INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS FOR HEALTHIER DRUG POLICIES

Office of Governor Bill Haslam

1st Floor, State Capitol

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

25 April 2014

Dear Governor Haslam,

Physicians from International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies, including obstetricians and pediatricians, are shocked by the Tennessee General Assembly's decision to address drug use during pregnancy through the state's criminal justice system. There is international consensus that health care issues are not properly addressed through threats of arrest and, in fact, are made worse by the involvement of law enforcement and criminal justice officials. These types of punitive approaches dissuade pregnant women from seeking prenatal care as well as drug treatment, and are dangerous to maternal, fetal, and child health. We urge the Governor of Tennessee to veto this law because medical decisions are best made between a health care provider and patient, without involvement of the police.

Sincerely on behalf of International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies

Sebastian Saville

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. A. Saville' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Executive Director

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