

Intervention can help impact a child's future

Judge Len Edwards and Dr. Balaji Govindaswami ("Give pregnant women the support they need," Opinion, [Aug. 14](#)) have provided a great service by directing our attention toward the prevention of substance abuse by pregnant women. Drug usage is not the only concern meriting prevention during and after pregnancy.

Domestic violence and the stressful effects on the fetus can also affect the outcomes for children's future, which is well documented. Excessive stress chemicals produced by the mother and created by domestic violence can affect a baby's brain development.

Sexual abuse even on very young children similarly produces undesirable long-term outcomes for children.

Few people understand how to appropriately intervene when dangerous behaviors are observed.

For the sake of child safety everywhere, it is important to begin age appropriate intervention training beginning in elementary school. With this foundation, it is possible even for children to help positively impact a child's future.

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