

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, or FASD, is an umbrella term used to describe the range of effects that can occur in a person whose mother consumed alcohol during pregnancy – including physical, mental, behavioral, and learning disabilities; and

Whereas, it is estimated that about 40,000 babies are born affected by prenatal alcohol exposure annually in the United States, however, the exact number of adults with FASD is unknown; and

Whereas, the lifetime cost for one individual with FASD is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the United States of over \$5 billion annually; and

Whereas, FASD is 100% preventable, yet remains the leading known preventable cause of birth defects, and developmental and intellectual disabilities in the United States; one in thirteen pregnant women report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days; and

Whereas, approximately one-half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks of the embryo's development; and

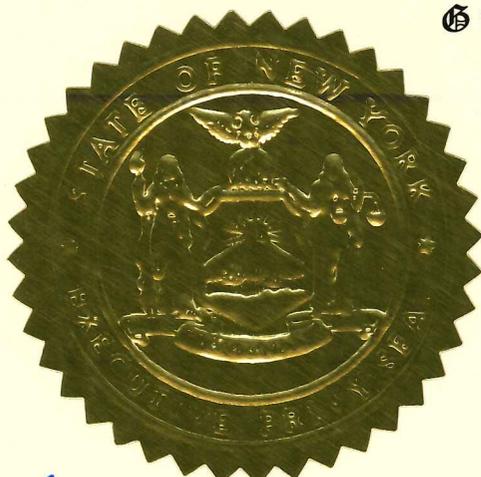
Whereas, the good health and well-being of the people of New York is enhanced by the support of local, state, national, and international efforts to educate people about the many health risks and dangers to an unborn child when a pregnant mother consumes alcohol during pregnancy, and to make every effort to reduce the prevalence of FASD; and

Whereas, since 1999, the global community has been observing International FASD Awareness Day on September 9th – the ninth day of the ninth month of the year – reminding people around the world that expectant mothers should abstain from alcohol during their pregnancy; New York State joins with communities across the world to promote this important goal and to raise awareness of the dangers that alcohol presents to people in all stages of life;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2014 as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS FASD AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State, to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to increase compassion for affected individuals, to minimize further effects of FASD, and to ensure healthier families in the future.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifth day of
September in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor