

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Healthy children are the most important resource in the State of Alaska.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) continues to be the leading cause of mental retardation in Alaska, the United States, and all of the western world.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are 100 percent preventable by women not drinking any alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy.

In Alaska it is estimated the 16.3 births per 1,000 are affected by disabilities resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy, equaling 163 new individuals born in Alaska with alcohol related birth defects each year.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime.

The lifetime costs in medical care, special education, specialized services, and lost productivity are estimated to be \$1.5 to \$3 million for each individual with an FASD.

On September 9, 2004, people around the world will be observing the sixth International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, in order that on the ninth day, of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2004, as:

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day

in Alaska, to promote public awareness and understanding of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to enhance our statewide prevention efforts, to increase compassion for those individuals so affected, to minimize the lifelong effects of FASD, and to ensure healthier communities across Alaska in the future.

DATED: August 6, 2004




Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.