



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

**FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, Children are the most important resource in the great State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the leading cause of mental retardation in Florida, the United States, and all of western civilization; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the most identifiable and serious disorder under the umbrella of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and its effects are permanent and irreversible; and

WHEREAS, as many as 1 in every 100 individuals in the United States may be adversely affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are 100 percent preventable if women do not drink during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are a root cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, juvenile delinquency, school drop-outs, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime; and

WHEREAS, economists estimate that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders cost taxpayers nearly \$6 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, people around the world will observe the 12<sup>th</sup> annual International FAS Awareness Day on September 9, 2010, a commemoration that was first observed on September 9, 1999 at 9:09 a.m., so that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will be reminded that women should abstain from alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) has launched a campaign entitled *Florida Fights FASD* to help reduce the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Florida and will enlist the support of dozens of FASD advocates to join the fight against this growing problem during a Summit to be held in Tallahassee on October 20 and 21, 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 9, 2010 as **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day**.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year two thousand ten.

A blue ink signature of Charlie Crist, written in a cursive style.

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Governor