



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, there is no safe amount of alcohol that a woman can drink while pregnant and there is no time during pregnancy when it is safe to consume alcohol, yet, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) affect more than 40,000 infants born in this nation each year, and prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of lifelong birth defects and developmental disabilities; and

Whereas, according to a 15-year study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of women who drink alcohol while pregnant is not decreasing, with approximately 1 in 8 women consuming alcohol while pregnant; and

Whereas, New York, through the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), supports the efforts to educate and assist women who may be at-risk for an alcohol-exposed pregnancy through a variety of prevention and treatment initiatives, as well as provide a FASD State Coordinator to organize and plan for FASD prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery initiatives; and

Whereas, also through OASAS, New York State has expanded its statewide initiative with six participating addiction treatment providers at eight sites in its federally-funded multi-year initiative, *Project CHOICES*, which aims to reduce risky drinking behaviors and improve the use of effective contraception for women of child-bearing years enrolled in addiction treatment; and

Whereas, the mission of the FASD Interagency Workgroup created in 2008 is to increase awareness and advance the effective prevention and treatment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in New York State through interagency collaboration and coordination, and the workgroup has been successful in developing and maintaining an Interagency FASD Website, and recently publishing and disseminating a seminal guidebook, [*Take A First Look: A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals which addresses Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders \(FASD\)*](#); and

Whereas, New York State's Addiction Collaborative to Improve Outcomes for New York (ACTION) which promotes the need for state agencies to work collaboratively on addiction issues to address the negative consequences of addiction as they impact the health, safety, welfare and education of New Yorkers through an integrated response to coordinate resources and interventions, including reducing the prevalence of FASD by facilitating the acquirement of multi-year federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to the New York State Department of Health (DOH) for outreach, research and program development; and

Whereas, this year we mark the 11th annual observance of FASD Awareness Day, which is celebrated in communities throughout New York State and across the globe, to raise awareness about FASD, to urge pregnant women not to drink alcohol, and to remind women who are considering becoming pregnant, to abstain from alcohol;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2010 as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State.



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

David A. Paterson

Governor

Laurence Schwartz

Secretary to the Governor