STATE OF ALASKA

Executive Proclamation
by
Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

WHEREAS, healthy children are the most important resource in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the leading cause of mental retardation in Alaska, the United States, and all of western civilization and is 100 percent preventable; and

WHEREAS, in Alaska it is estimated that 12.6 births per 1,000 are affected by disabilities resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy, equaling 126 new individuals with alcohol related birth defects each year; and

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

WHEREAS, economist estimate that each individual with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders will cost U.S. taxpayers between $1.5 and $3 million in his or her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2003, people around the world will be observing the fifth 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, 2003, as:

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day

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

Dated: August 25, 2003

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