



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, our children represent our brightest hope for the future, and deserve a healthy beginning and the chance to realize their greatest potential, yet sadly, the use of alcohol by pregnant women remains one of the leading preventable causes of birth defects, mental retardation, and developmental disabilities that tragically rob children of a fulfilling life; and

Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) affect approximately one of every 100 live births and are characterized by central nervous system dysfunction, facial abnormalities and growth retardation, and children with FASD also commonly have cognitive deficits that lead to difficulties with learning, memory, and impaired speech and hearing; and

Whereas, FASD is the only birth defect that is one-hundred percent preventable, and it is important that all men and women in New York State are aware of the dangers involved with consuming alcohol during pregnancy; and

Whereas, New York State has initiated educational and public awareness programs to curb alcohol use among pregnant women and to convey a strong message that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and has implemented a multi-faceted approach to preventing FASD by: increasing outreach efforts; identifying and referring pregnant women and women of childbearing years and their families to qualified health care professionals; and providing training on FASD for health care professionals; and

Whereas, a statewide FASD Task Force in New York State assists women with addiction treatment and prevention efforts and improve communication between all forms of government and the Task Force continues to examine state-level programs and policies that can be implemented to improve alcohol screening, identification, and referrals within health care and community settings; and

Whereas, the Task Force explores ways to integrate referrals to family planning counseling for women in addiction treatment programs and also examines the feasibility of improving FASD surveillance and data collection in New York State; and

Whereas, FASD Awareness Day is observed annually in the United States and worldwide, providing an opportunity to raise awareness about FASD, and it is fitting to support this observance which helps convey a critical message to expecting parents and further address the complexities that FASD brings to the lives of affected children and their families;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2007 as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth
day of August in the year two thousand seven.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor