

State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

2011

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the term "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders" is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects that can occur in a baby whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause birth defects, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, attention deficits and behavior disorders; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder often have numerous social disorders such as disrupted school experience, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues, unemployment, and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) alone costs the United States \$5.4 billion annually in direct and indirect costs; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) estimates that 40,000 infants are born each year with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), or 1 out of every 100 births in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, each year there are an estimated 253 children born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and 1,267 children born with an FASD; and

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 60 percent of women in the United States between the age of 18 and 44 years old reported alcohol use in the past month and 33 percent reported binge drinking (4 or more drinks in one sitting) in the past month; and

WHEREAS, SAMHSA reports that approximately 10.6 percent of pregnant women in the United States reported alcohol use and 3.7 percent of pregnant women engaged in binge drinking; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Fetal Alcohol Prevention Program, 47.4 percent of North Carolina women reported drinking at least three months prior to pregnancy and 27 percent of North Carolina women reported binge drinking three months prior to pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the affects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are 100% preventable if women abstain from drinking during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins the Department of Health and Human Services and other committed agencies in working to raise awareness statewide to promote open and honest communication about the effects of FASD and to encourage and empower our communities to implement activities to prevent FASD;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2011, as "FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY" in North Carolina, and I call upon all North Carolinians to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-seventh day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.