



State of New York
Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the identification and naming of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as a birth disorder by United States researchers Dr. David Smith and Dr. Kenneth Jones in 1973; and

Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is just one of many Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD); FASD is the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother consumed alcohol during her pregnancy, including physical, mental, behavioral, and learning disabilities; and

Whereas, individuals with FASD often have lifelong difficulties related to their disabilities, such as trouble with the law, addictions, mental health issues, disrupted school experience, unemployment, or homelessness, and thus require a lifetime of services from various systems of care; and

Whereas, FASD is 100% preventable, yet remains the leading known preventable cause of intellectual disabilities in the United States; one in eight women report alcohol consumption during their pregnancies, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome impacts an estimated 1 out of every 1,000 live births, while FASD impacts an estimated 1 out of every 100 live births; the nationwide cost of FASD exceeds an estimated \$5 billion dollars annually; and

Whereas, since 1999, the global community has been observing International FASD Awareness Day on September 9th – the ninth day of the ninth month of the year – reminding people around the world to remember that, during the nine months of pregnancy, expectant mothers should abstain from alcohol;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2013 as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS
AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to increase compassion for those individuals so affected, to minimize further effects of FASD, and to ensure healthier communities across New York.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-seventh
day of August in the year two thousand thirteen.



Governor

Secretary to the Governor