

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The term “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders” (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in a baby whose mother has consumed alcohol during pregnancy, with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) being the most extreme condition along the spectrum; and

WHEREAS: Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The exact number of people who have FASD is unknown, but it is estimated that about 40,000 babies are born annually with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure, or one-in-every-100 births; and

WHEREAS: The lifetime cost for one individual with FASD is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the State of Arkansas for FASD reaching more than \$79 million annually; and

WHEREAS: More than seven percent of pregnant women and over 51 percent of non-pregnant women report drinking alcohol in the past thirty days; and

WHEREAS: About half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks of embryonic development; and

WHEREAS: The good health and well-being of the people of Arkansas are enhanced by the national effort to educate the public about FASD and work toward its prevention; and

WHEREAS: More information about FASD is available at the Web site of the FASD Center, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at www.cdc.gov; and

WHEREAS: Partners for Inclusive Communities of the University of Arkansas joins with the Arkansas FASD Task Force, as well as many dedicated volunteers, health-care professionals, educators, and parent groups by participating in this important endeavor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2015, as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in raising awareness about the effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy with the unified message of “Pregnancy and alcohol don’t mix. Why take the risk?”

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 21st day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State