

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) being the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

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

WHEREAS: The exact number of people who have FASDs is unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 U.S. school children may have a FASD, a rate comparable to Autism. About 40,000 babies are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

WHEREAS: The lifetime cost for one individual with FAS (does not include other FASDs) is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the United States for FAS alone over \$4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS: Among pregnant women, 1 in 10 reported any alcohol use, and 1 in 33 reported binge drinking in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS: About half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late entry into 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 support of a national effort to educate about and prevent FASDs; and

WHEREAS: Partners for Inclusive Communities/University of Arkansas joins with the Arkansas FASD Task Force and Arkansas None for Nine, as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups by participating in this promotion;

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 2017, as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (FASD) AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I urge my fellow citizens to recognize “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 26th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State