



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, healthy children are some of our most important resources, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders pose a serious threat to the potential health of our future generations; and

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

WHEREAS, the exact number of people who have FASDs is unknown, but it is estimated that about 40,000 babies are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime cost for one individual with FAS is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the United States for FAS alone over \$4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, 7.6% of pregnant women (or 1 in 13) and 51.5% of non-pregnant women (or 1 in 2) report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders often experience broader issues such as trouble with the law, substance abuse issues, disrupted school experiences, employment problems, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are entirely preventable; and

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the people of Tennessee are enhanced by the support of a national effort to educate about and prevent FASDs; and

WHEREAS, the Papillion Center for FASD join with NOFAS (National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups by participating in this promotion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as

*Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
(FASD) Awareness Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this second day of August, 2021.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Regatta

Secretary of State

