



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

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

WHEREAS, prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause birth defects, intellectual or 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 FASD each year in the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, in recent studies almost 14% (or 1 in 7) of pregnant women reported current drinking and almost 50% of adult women report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders may 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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2024 as

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders 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 twenty-ninth day of August 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Reger

Secretary of State