



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, more than thirty years have passed since Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was identified and named as a birth disorder by United States researchers; and

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

WHEREAS, nearly one in five women report drinking alcohol in their first trimester of pregnancy; 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, people around the world began observing International FAS Awareness Day on September 9 each year beginning in 1999, in order that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate has previously passed a resolution to ask the President to designate September 9 as National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2013, as

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day

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 nineteenth day of June, 2013.



Bill Haslam

Governor

Julie Hayat

Secretary of State