



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 forty 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 refrain from alcohol;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2015, as

*Fetal Alcohol Spectrum  
Disorder 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 twenty-fourth day of June, 2015.



*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State