



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Children are our state's greatest blessing and asset. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders threaten not only members of our younger population, but all age groups, and pose a risk to the future of our state; and

WHEREAS: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term that describes a variety of conditions that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. FASD may affect anyone, regardless of ethnicity, income, socioeconomic status, or education; and

WHEREAS: According to the National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, an estimated 40,000 infants are born with FASD each year; and

WHEREAS: FASD is completely preventable when pregnant women abstain from alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS: FASD may contribute to numerous social issues and developmental disorders, including learning disabilities, scholastic failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and criminal behavior. Those with FASD are 19 times more likely to experience an intellectual disability, 7 times more likely to experience attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and 3 to 5 times more likely to experience a learning disability; and

WHEREAS: FASD is often referred to as the "invisible disability." It can have a heightened impact on children in foster care and those in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice; and

WHEREAS: Children and adults affected by FASD can succeed with proper treatment, appropriate strategies, interventions, and interdependence. Increased public awareness of the effects of prenatal consumption of alcohol for primary prevention and the need to support individuals with FASD and their families will contribute to the productive development of these individuals and help improve their family stability and quality of life; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2021 as FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Manton Kippenrich

CHIEF OF STAFF