

# FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a pattern of mental and physical abnormalities that develop in some babies when the mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS: Alcohol in a pregnant woman's bloodstream circulates to the fetus by crossing the placenta, where the alcohol interferes with the ability of the fetus to receive sufficient oxygen and nourishment for normal cell development in the brain and other body organs; and

WHEREAS: FAS symptoms include growth deficiencies, skeletal and/or organ deformities, facial abnormalities and central nervous system handicaps. Maternal alcohol use is the leading known cause of mental retardation in the western world; and

WHEREAS: Each year more than 50,000 babies are born with some degree of alcohol-related damage. FAS is one of the major root causes of learning disabilities, early school drop-out, juvenile delinquency, drug addiction, alcoholism, mental illness, crime and domestic abuse; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2003, as FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY in Georgia and urge all citizens to act responsibly in preventing FAS in their children.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this fifth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.