



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the term “fetal alcohol spectrum disorders” is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects that can occur in a baby whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy; and

**WHEREAS**, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are a leading cause of mental retardation, and learning and behavioral disorders in the United States and Wisconsin, and are preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin leads the nation in binge drinking by women of childbearing age and has the highest rates in the nation of many alcohol indicators, including: current drinking among adults, chronic heavy drinking among adults, and current underage drinking; and

**WHEREAS**, each year in Wisconsin approximately 70-80 babies are born with fetal alcohol syndrome and an additional 150-200 are born with other negative effects related to prenatal alcohol exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin supports programming to increase the State’s capacity to identify and treat FASDs, including funding for the Wisconsin FASD Treatment Outreach Project to support women-specific alcohol treatment providers to identify and treat women and children at risk of FASDs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Family Empowerment Network has provided education, resources, advocacy, and support to families affected by FASD in Wisconsin for over 15 years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim** September 9, 2009 as:

#### **FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY**

and call upon the people of Wisconsin to:

- minimize the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure
- reduce the risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies
- increase the capacity of physicians to diagnose and treat FASDs
- increase compassion and effective services for families affected by prenatal alcohol exposure
- ensure that women with alcohol concerns have a point of contact within their community to access effective services
- support Wisconsin’s FASD initiatives, including Arc Smart Start, Family Empowerment Network, Wisconsin Treatment Outreach Project, and My Baby and Me

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this fourth day of August in the year two thousand nine.

  
JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS A. FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

