



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of disabilities that can occur in an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) being the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, many people may not know they are pregnant for the first 4-6 weeks, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks; and

WHEREAS, since 2015 the percentage of pregnant individuals who drank alcohol during the last 3 months of pregnancy increased; and

WHEREAS, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the exact number of people who have FASDs is unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 U.S. school children may have an FASD, with 1 in 7 pregnancies being alcohol exposed; and

WHEREAS, early detection of FASD allows for early interventions that can greatly improve long-term health outcomes, and

WHEREAS, the lifetime cost for one individual with FAS is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the United States for FAS alone of over \$4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans impacted by FASD have reported experiencing shame and stigma, challenges with screening and diagnosis, difficulty finding and accessing FASD-informed educational and support services, and caregiver burden; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the people of Colorado are enhanced by efforts to educate about, prevent, and support those impacted by FASDs; and

WHEREAS, Illuminate Colorado and the SuPPoRT Colorado FASD Awareness Work Group join with FASD United as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups by participating in this promotion;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2022 as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this ninth day of September, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis
Governor