

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term that describes the range of disorders that can affect an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the best available data, it can be estimated that up to 1 in 20 school children in the United States have an FASD; and

**WHEREAS**, the lifetime cost for one individual with FAS in 2002 was estimated to be \$2 million, and the combined cost to the United States for FAS alone is estimated at more than \$4 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 3.3 million women in the United States are at risk of exposing their developing baby to alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, about half of all pregnancies are unplanned, which contributes to late entry into prenatal care and presents a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks of embryonic development; and


**WHEREAS**, a 2013 study by the CDC found that 1 in 10 pregnant women reported alcohol use in the past 30 days, and 1 in 33 pregnant women reported binge drinking (having four or more drinks at one time) in the past 30 days; and

**WHEREAS**, support for state and national efforts to increase education and prevention of FASDs can enhance the good health and well-being of the people of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina joins the North Carolina Fetal Alcohol Prevention Program (FASDinNC), the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS), as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups in raising awareness of a unified message: *Alcohol and Pregnancy Don't Mix. Why Take the Risk?*;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2018, as "**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.