



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is one of the most preventable causes of developmental disabilities and birth defects in newborns and as many as 40,000 infants are born every year in the United States with fetal alcohol symptoms; and,

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders are the leading cause of developmental disabilities in western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable; and,

WHEREAS, FAS is a lifelong, mentally and physically disabling condition caused by mothers who drink during pregnancy; and,

WHEREAS, research has found that even minimal drinking during pregnancy can kill developing brain cells and result in brain damage, facial deformities, and growth abnormalities. Heart, kidney, and liver defects are also common; and,

WHEREAS, those with FAS typically have difficulty communicating, learning, and memorizing. Consequently, they have trouble in school and are often deficient in interpersonal skills; and,

WHEREAS, unfortunately, there is no cure for FAS. However, with early detection and diagnosis, children with FAS can receive services that increase their chance for a better life; and,

WHEREAS, since 1999, September 9 has been observed as International FAS Day to encourage expectant mothers to abstain from alcohol during their nine months of pregnancy:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2010 as **FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY** in Illinois, to raise awareness about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and to urge all expectant mothers to take extra precautions while pregnant for the health and well-being of their children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,

this EIGHTH day of SEPTEMBER, in

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

TEN, and of the State of Illinois

the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND



Joann White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR