



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, Children are the most important resource in the great State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the leading cause of mental retardation in Florida, the United States, and all of western civilization; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the most identifiable and serious disorder under the umbrella of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and its effects are permanent and irreversible; and

WHEREAS, as many as 1 in every 100 individuals in the United States may be adversely affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are 100 percent preventable if women do not drink during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are a root cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, juvenile delinquency, school drop-outs, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime; and

WHEREAS, economists estimate that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders cost taxpayers nearly \$6 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, people around the world will observe the 12th annual International FAS Awareness Day on September 9, 2010, a commemoration that was first observed on September 9, 1999 at 9:09 a.m., so that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will be reminded that women should abstain from alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) has launched a campaign entitled *Florida Fights FASD* to help reduce the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Florida and will enlist the support of dozens of FASD advocates to join the fight against this growing problem during a Summit to be held in Tallahassee on October 20 and 21, 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 9, 2010 as **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day**.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 10th day of August, in the year two thousand ten.

A blue ink signature of Charlie Crist, written in a cursive style.

Governor