

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 220

Designating the ninth day of September of each year as “National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the ninth day of September of each year as
“National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day”.

Whereas fetal alcohol syndrome is the leading cause of mental retardation in western civilization, including the United States, and is 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas economists estimate that each individual with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders will cost United States taxpayers between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000 in his or her lifetime;

Whereas in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome/effect (FAS/E) came together with the hope that in one magic moment the world could be made aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, stated the purpose of the observance as: “What if . . . a world full of FAS/E parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol . . . would the rest of the world listen?”; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the ninth day of September of
3 each year as “National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
4 Awareness Day”; and

5 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
6 mation calling upon the people of the United States
7 to—

8 (A) observe “National Fetal Alcohol Syn-
9 drome Awareness Day” with appropriate cere-
10 monies to—

- 1 (i) promote awareness of the effects of
2 prenatal exposure to alcohol;
3 (ii) increase compassion for individ-
4 uals affected by prenatal exposure to alco-
5 hol;
6 (iii) minimize further effects; and
7 (iv) ensure healthier communities
8 across the United States; and
9 (B) observe a moment of reflection on the
10 ninth hour of the ninth day of September to re-
11 member that during the 9 months of pregnancy
12 a woman should not consume alcohol.

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