

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 240

Designating September 9, 2009, as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 2009

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Designating September 9, 2009, as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day”.

Whereas the term “fetal alcohol spectrum disorders” includes a broader range of conditions and therefore has replaced the term “fetal alcohol syndrome” as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of cognitive disability in western civilization, including the United States, and are 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 the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas although the economic costs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are difficult to estimate, the cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone in the United States was \$5,400,000,000 in 2003, and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost taxpayers of the United States 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 spectrum disorders came together with the hope that in 1 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, asked “What if . . . a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] 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—

1           (1) designates September 9, 2009, as “National  
2 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day”;  
3 and

4           (2) calls upon the people of the United States—  
5           (A) to observe National Fetal Alcohol  
6 Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appro-  
7 priate ceremonies—

8                   (i) to promote awareness of the effects  
9 of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

10                   (ii) to increase compassion for individ-  
11 uals affected by prenatal exposure to alco-  
12 hol;

13                   (iii) to minimize further effects of pre-  
14 natal exposure to alcohol; and

15                   (iv) to ensure healthier communities  
16 across the United States; and

17           (B) to observe a moment of reflection on  
18 the ninth hour of September 9, 2009, to re-  
19 member that during the 9 months of pregnancy  
20 a woman should not consume alcohol.

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