

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER 2021

WHEREAS, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) being the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the exact number of people who have FASDs is unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 U.S. school children may have an FASD, a rate comparable to Autism, and about 40,000 babies are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

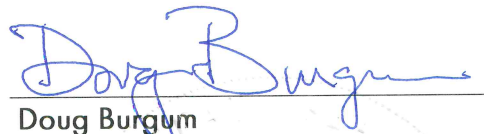
WHEREAS, many women may not know they are pregnant for the first four to six weeks of pregnancy, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks; and

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the people of North Dakota is enhanced by the support of a national effort to educate about and prevent FASDs; and

WHEREAS, The Family Services Network joins with the North Dakota FAS Center and the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum, as well as many dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals, educators and parent groups, to raise awareness about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
September 2021, FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH in
the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE