



*WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) are a group of conditions that can occur in an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) being the most recognizable condition; and*

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

*WHEREAS, barriers in access to early prenatal care reduces optimal pregnancy management for many pregnant people; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the most recently available Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data, it was estimated that in 2020, 15.4% of pregnant individuals in Colorado drank alcohol during the last 3 months of pregnancy and 1 in 7 pregnancies are alcohol-exposed; 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; and*

*WHEREAS, the average lifetime cost for one individual with FAS is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the United States for FAS alone of over \$4 billion annually; and*

*WHEREAS, Coloradans impacted by FASDs have reported experiencing shame and stigma, challenges with screening and diagnosis, difficulty finding and accessing FASD-informed educational and support services, and caregiver burden; and*

*WHEREAS, The well-being of the people of Colorado is enhanced by the dedicated efforts by advocates, volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups to educate about, prevent, and support those impacted by FASDs;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2023, as*

**FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH**

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of September, 2023*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis  
Governor