

**Advisory Board on Alcoholism
and Drug Abuse**



Alaska Mental Health Board

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
431 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 465-8920

February 13, 2012

Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Capitol Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 127 — Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day

Dear Senator Meyer,

The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board express their appreciation and support for SB 127 permanently establishing September 9 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day each year. As you know, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are 100% preventable. Raising awareness and recognition of this fact will help prevent more Alaskan children from being born affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.

Even more importantly, an annual day of FASD awareness and prevention will increase understanding of the special, and often very individual, needs of individuals diagnosed with fetal spectrum disorders. Too often the services and supports they need to thrive – at home, at school, and in their communities – are not available. By designating a day to focus on the unique issues of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and their impact on Alaska, we can not only support Alaskans with FASD but also prevent future Alaskans from experiencing FASD.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

J. Kate Burkhart
Executive Director

cc: Robert Coghill, Jr., Chairman ABADA
Dan Meddleton, Chairman AMHB