



Arctic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
Regional Training Center
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Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Capitol Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801

February 16, 2012

Dear Senator Meyer:

The *Arctic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Regional Training Center* (Arctic FASD RTC), based at the University of Alaska Anchorage, submits this letter in support of SB 127 "*An Act establishing September 9 each year as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day*".

The mission of the *Arctic FASD RTC* is to train a broad range of healthcare professionals and students in the prevention, referral, identification, and treatment of FASDs. Since our inception in late 2008, we have strived to reach Alaska health and allied healthcare providers and students in programs leading to health and allied healthcare professions about strategies for the prevention of alcohol exposed pregnancies, diagnosis and assessment of FASDs, and effective treatment and interventions across the lifespan for individuals who experience an FASD and their families.

Every day, we see first-hand the challenging outcomes for mothers and children associated with prenatal alcohol exposure. All FASDs are completely preventable if a woman does not drink alcohol during pregnancy. Public education and awareness on this issue is vital in the nation-wide effort to reduce the prevalence of this preventable spectrum of disorders.

While Alaska has the highest prevalence rate of FASDs in the country, we also lead the nation in efforts to reduce this prevalence rate through education and awareness efforts around the state. Receiving permanent recognition for the annual FASD Awareness Day by the state legislature would continue to advance these efforts in a very meaningful way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christiane Brems".

Christiane Brems, PhD, APBB
Director, Arctic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Regional Training Center
Director, Center for Behavioral Health Research and Services