

HJR

31



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE WEYHRAUCH



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STATE CAPITOL  
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## Sponsor Statement for House Joint Resolution 31

House Joint Resolution 31 designates September 9, 2006 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are the single largest cause of mental retardation in Alaska and are one hundred percent preventable.

International FAS Awareness Day was first observed on September 9, 1999. It began when a small group of adoptive and foster parents of children afflicted with FAS and Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) came together on the Internet to ask this compelling question, "What if a world full of FAS and FAE parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the ninth year and asked the world to remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol?"

The designation of FASD Awareness Day is intended to focus attention on the high cost of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders to our state and the ease of prevention. Currently, more American babies are born with FAS than with Down Syndrome, Muscular Dystrophy, and HIV combined. The simple fact is no alcohol consumed during pregnancy has been established safe for the fetus. If women do not drink any alcohol during their nine months of pregnancy, alcohol-related birth defects would be eliminated.

We ask Alaskans to come together at 9:09 am on September 9, 2006 for a "pregnant pause" to reflect on preventing FASD's and also to remember throughout the year to continue to reach for the goal of eradicating Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HJR 31  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day RJU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Representative Bruce Weyrauch  
 Requester House Health Education & Social Services Component No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0  
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Linda Miller Phone 465-3759  
 Division: House HESS Committee Aide Date/Time: 3/1/06 10:00 AM  
 Approved by: Representative Peggy Wilson Date: 3/1/2006  
 Agency: Chair, House HESS Committee

# Office of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Office of FAS>Home

## FAS Awareness Day 2005

September 9th, 2005

[in Anchorage](#) / [in Kenai](#) / [in Juneau](#) / [in Fairbanks](#) / [FAS Websites](#)

### International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day is September 9th!

This year in Juneau there will be increased FAS/FASD awareness during the first week of September as the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Community Advisory Group's Outreach and Training Committee works on spreading the word on FASD prevention and awareness, including radio interviews, public service announcements, outreach and education, poster contests and much more.

On the morning of Friday, September 9th, I invite you to join community members on the Capitol steps at 8:45am, where proclamations from the mayor and governor will be read, and a concordance of local bells will ring at 9:09am, followed by a minute of reflection. A walk of support will then occur from the Capitol to Marine Park and back.

We hope to see you there.

### FASD Websites

For more information on FAS(FASD) and hints on how you or your agency can participate in FASD awareness on FAS Day and every day, here are a few websites of interest:

- ▶ <http://www.fasworld.com/home.html>
- ▶ <http://www.fasworld.com/symbol.html>
- ▶ <http://www.fasstar.com/>
- ▶ <http://www.faslink.org/>
- ▶ <http://www.comeover.to/FASCRC/>

### FASDAY in Anchorage:

The Anchorage Council on FASD is coordinating a variety of events on and during the week leading up to International FAS Awareness Day. ON 9/6 and 9/8 Peer Outreach Youth involved in the Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation will be distributing FAS knots and wristbands and FASD prevention information in local malls and transit centers. Several businesses in Anchorage are showcasing FASD prevention messages on their electronic reader boards during the month of September.

ON 9/9, local and state officials will share their comments with members of the community at the Town Square, local churches will join with the town Square participants in ringing bells at 9:09, dance groups will perform, a young mother with FASD will tell her story and a poem about the tragedy of FASD will be read. Local programs working in the field will share information about their various programs. Refreshments donated by local businesses will be served during this event. Many coffee kiosks and cafes will attach FASD prevention message stickers to their cups

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and at least one restaurant will be providing free non-alcoholic beverages to pregnant women that day. These businesses will also use the napkins and or placemats with prevention messages provided by the state office of FAS.

#### **FAS Day in Kenai:**

The Kenai Peninsula will hold a ceremony the morning of September 9th on the bluff overlooking the mouth of the Kenai River. We will begin with the Heartbeat of Mother Earth drummers, followed by a moment of silence and the ringing of the bell. There will be special music, a mayoral proclamation, and a few words of wisdom from experts in the field of FASD (a physician and a parent.)

#### **FAS Day in Juneau**

[View the flyer.](#)

#### **FAS Day in Fairbanks**

ACCA in conjunction with RCPC and our FAS Advisory Board planned and is having a BBQ at Frontier Park for parents and children who have either rec'd our services or want to know more about us. We will have games for children and a table 'womaned' by Maureen Harwood with info for adults. BBQ will start at 5:30. In addition the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly passed a resolution during their Aug 18th meeting declaring Sept 9 local FAS Awareness Day. They distributed copies of the resolution to our local legislators and to the Governor Frank Murkowski.

State of Alaska | Alaska Pioneer Homes | Behavioral Health | Boards and Councils  
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# International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Awareness Day

**When:** Friday, September 9th at 8:45 a.m.

**Where:** The Capitol steps

**What:** Show your support by walking from the Capitol steps to the Marine Park and back

**Who:** You, Governor Murkowski, Mayor Botelho, families, youth, students, and professionals

- \* Make the world aware that no amount of alcohol is safe during pregnancy.
- \* Make the world aware of the millions of people born with FAS, because their brains - and often their bodies - are damaged before they were born.
- \* We want our governments to invest in information for women with alcohol addiction problems, and their families, special education, and other support for individuals with FAS.

**September 9th**



# FASWORLD

the international alliance promoting the awareness of  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and related disorders

presents

# HOW TO DO FAS DAY

Online Manual for International FAS Awareness Day 2000

Prepared by Bonnie Buxton, Brian Philcox, and Teresa Kellerman  
co-founders of FASWORLD, an international alliance formed  
to raise global awareness about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy  
and the special needs of individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol.



Vivien Lourens of Cape Town, South Africa  
with daughter Tisha, FAS



Children of Kim Meawasige,  
FAS Day volunteer in Toronto



Children at Queen of Apostles  
School in Toledo, Ohio

*"I have read that the oscillation of butterfly wings in Brazil may set off storms in Texas."*

--Janette Turner Hospital, *The Last Magician*



1. <u>What is FASDAY</u>	7. <u>FASDAY Proclamations</u>
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## 1. What is FAS Day?

FAS Day is the short name for International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, which was observed for the first time on September 9, 1999, with a "Minute of Reflection" at 9:09 a.m.

It came about because a number of people on the online support group "FASlink" were feeling frustrated about the lack of awareness by professionals and the general public about FAS.

We were trying to figure out how to make the world more aware that woman should not drink in pregnancy - and also inform the world that millions of people throughout the world are suffering from brain damage caused by alcohol before they were born.

Twenty volunteers from around the world began working together to build awareness, and by September 9 we had 80 volunteer coordinators. On September 9, 1999, events were held in communities across Canada and the U.S., and in South Africa, New Zealand, Germany, and Sweden. We also had individual volunteers in Australia and Italy. All of this was accomplished with volunteers and no financial resources.

Our international butterflies really did cause a storm. The event generated enormous local media and on September 10, 1999, we decided to do it again in 2000 - only bigger and better!

## 2. What is the Bell Concordance?

(From the Oxford English Dictionary) *Concordance: 1. The fact of agreeing or being concordant; agreement, harmony...4. An agreeable or satisfactory blending of musical sounds or notes; harmony.*)

On Sept.9, 1999, bells around the world marked the "magic minute" at 9:09 a.m., and we named this ringing of bells, "The FAS Bell Concordance." It was so successful that other organizations have picked up this term and copied it!

Bells ranged from the historic 56-bell carillon in Cape Town, South Africa, to tiny bells rung by school children in Toledo, Ohio, and wind chimes and rain sticks in Sioux-Lookout, Ontario.

More bells and carillons will ring in 2000.

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### 3. Why observe FAS Day?

FAS Day provides an opportunity to build awareness and understanding of FAS in your own community. Newspaper, radio and TV reporters who would otherwise be indifferent to the FAS story become interested when we provide a reason for them to inform the public.

In 1999, our volunteers found that the months leading up to FAS Day, and the weeks and months afterward also helped them to build important permanent contacts in their community -- with professionals, politicians, local government agencies, media -- and, most important, other families who had also been knowingly or unknowingly struggling with FAS. The effects of FAS Day lasted well past the day itself, and many of us will be building on last year's contacts as we plan this year's events.

#### Yeah, but....

It's difficult when you are the only person in your community who seems to know anything about FAS. If you're a parent, you're burned-out and reeling from crisis to crisis because of your child's problems. Yet, a number of people in this situation did manage to set off some ripples of awareness.

#### For example:

Carol Ann Allen in Cape May, New Jersey - adoptive mom of five children with FAS -- and Carlyn Graham hosted a successful open house in Carol's home. Carol Ann and Carlyn managed to get a state proclamation from the Governor of New Jersey along with a civic proclamation.

Another parent, Claudia Barker in Bastrop, Texas, wondered what on earth she could do for FAS Day. She got in touch with Double Arc in Austin, intrigued a number of energetic Texans, and on September 9, found herself speaking to a group of teachers at a FAS Day event in San Antonio -- held as a result of her involvement. One of Claudia's recruits, parent Marlo Kaskoto, took on the job of getting a Texas state proclamation, numerous civic proclamations, and the ringing of the carillon ringing at University of Texas at 9:09 on FAS Day. Having made many excellent personal contacts as a result of her work, Claudia wrote on September 10, "FAS Day did way more for me than I did for FAS Day."

Trudy House of Hastings, Nebraska, managed to get a state proclamation from Governor Mike Johanns, and found herself on the steps of the governor's mansion being interviewed by the media.

Frances Brown on the tiny island of Kitkatla, a isolated native community in northern British Columbia, planned a community breakfast on September 9, and as a result the island's children held a protest March on December 9, urging their parents not to drink over the Christmas holidays.

Shiona Watson in the small community of Acton, Ontario, captivated ninth-graders at a local high school and managed to place a story in the local newspaper.

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### 4. Some Worldwide Events on FAS Day '99

Here are some more events as FAS Day moved around the world -- - feel free to

**borrow ideas.**

**Auckland, NZ:** Breakfast for FAS supporters, Minute of Reflection bells ringing in nearby Mt. Albert Methodist Church. Events also held in Wellington, Hamilton and Invercargill.

**Cape Town, South Africa:** program outside historic 37-bell War Memorial Carillon, which rang when Nelson Mandela was released from prison.

**Kiel, Berlin, Flensburg and Hamburg, Germany:** posters, buttons, info stand in town centre; information evening for Social Services, teachers, physicians; famous restaurant giving free nonalcoholic drinks to pregnant women all day long.

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada:** events included church bells, art exhibit featuring soapstone carving donated by famous artist Ookpik Pitseolak, showing drinking mother with baby in Aamouti@ (parka hood.)

**Toronto, ON, Canada:** program inside Metropolitan United Church included international lullabies on church carillon, native drum singer/elder offering prayer in English and Ojibwa, keynote address by Dr. Carolyn Bennett, federal Member of Parliament.

**Sioux Lookout, ON, Canada:** program in local park featuring sharing circle, prayer by First Nations elder, Minute of Reflection with wind chimes and rain sticks.

**Kenora, Keewatin, Jaffrey Melick, ON, Canada:** poster distribution to doctors' offices, three-level curriculum offered to teachers.

**Toledo, OH, U.S.A.:** Day-long activities included hot-air balloon with words on it, AFAS: THE HIDDEN PLAGUE@ and matching yellow AHidden Plague@ T-shirts.

**Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A.:** 9:09 a.m. bells included two carillons, City Hall, three cathedrals, two other churches, followed by large rally and speeches outside State Courthouse.

**San Antonio, TX, U.S.A.:** Day-long information program for teachers and others concerned with FAS, included presentations from FAS Day volunteers, Claudia Barker, and Dr. Bob Clayton.

**Austin, TX, U.S.A.:** program built around the 56-bell Kniker Carillon at University of Texas.

**Tucson, AZ, U.S.A.:** 9:09 a.m. bells at St. Augustine Cathedral; outdoor program featuring two young people who struggle daily with FAS.

**Lakeland, AB, Canada:** five communities participated in day-long events, including poster blitz, mall display, bars offering Apregnant pause@ nonalcoholic drinks for pregnant women, church bells ringing, junior high school students making FAS Knots, proclamations in all five communities.

**Red Deer, AB, Canada:** all-day mall displays, use of FAS brochures as place-mats in local restaurants.

**Brooks, AB, Canada:** A 9-block walk to symbolize the 9 months of pregnancy, with Atrimester@ information provided every three blocks. At the end of the walk the handouts were assembled into a picture of a healthy bouncing baby.