

## STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**Whereas**, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects that can occur in a baby whose mother consumes alcohol during pregnancy; and

**Whereas**, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities and is 100% avoidable if women abstain from drinking alcohol during pregnancy; and

**Whereas**, individuals with FASDs often have numerous problems, such as disrupted school experiences, juvenile delinquency, mental health and substance abuse issues, and higher rates of incarceration; and

**Whereas**, women often do not recognize pregnancy until 4-6 weeks gestation, which contributes to the risk of alcohol exposure during the crucial early weeks of embryonic development; and

**Whereas**, raising awareness improves the plight of individuals and families who struggle with FASDs and reminds everyone that a woman should abstain from consuming alcohol throughout her entire pregnancy; and

**Now, Therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor**, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as

**“Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month”**

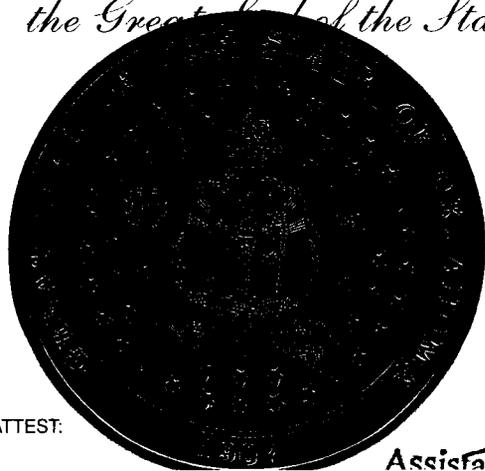
in the state of Oklahoma.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and sixteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and eighth year.*

40066

ATTEST:



Assistant SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR