




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Jennifer L. Mann, Democratic Caucus Secretary 

**DATE:** August 4, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Resolution designating September 2011 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Month

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In the near future I intend to introduce a resolution which would designate September 2011 as “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Month” in Pennsylvania. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, or FASD, is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother consumed alcohol during pregnancy. This includes Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Alcohol-Related Neuro-Developmental Disorder, and Alcohol-Related Birth Defects.

Alcohol is passed through to an unborn fetus at 100% strength when consumed during pregnancy, and is the leading known cause of intellectual disabilities and birth defects in the United States. According to the Institute of Medicine, of all the substances of abuse, including heroin, cocaine, and marijuana, alcohol produces by far the most serious neurobehavioral effects in the fetus. The impacts can be varied, including intellectual disability, low birth weight and size, brain development problems, and hearing and vision disorders.

Please join me in raising awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, which is completely preventable. Should you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Kira Zickler in my office via email at [kzickler@pahouse.net](mailto:kzickler@pahouse.net).