

CHILDREN EXPOSED TO ALCOHOL DURING PREGNANCY

- Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These include Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE), Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS), Static Encephalopathy Alcohol Exposed (SEAE), and Alcohol Related Birth Defects (ARBD); and
- Whereas, Over 30 years of research links alcohol use during pregnancy with birth defects in babies, still only 24 percent of obstetrical textbooks published since 1990 teach abstinence during pregnancy; and
- Whereas, The prevalence of FAS is between 0.5 to 2 cases per 1,000 births. It is estimated that for every child born with FAS, three additional children are born who may not have the physical characteristics at birth but still experience neurobehavioral deficits resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure that affect learning and behavior; and
- Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders can occur in a child whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications to the child, all of which are preventable; and
- Whereas, Many states have punitive laws that keep women who use alcohol from seeking comprehensive care during pregnancy. Children born to these mothers are at risk for developmental delay and complex medical, social and educational problems; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations promote a campaign raising awareness regarding the dangers and adverse effects of alcohol use during pregnancy and the struggles that pertain to individuals and families faced with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations promote educational programs through meetings, bulletins and workshops for parents, students, administrators, teachers and community members on the dangers of alcohol use during pregnancy; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations support non-punitive access to comprehensive care for the alcohol-using woman and her infant and to educate the public that addiction is a medical issue, not a moral failure.
- Adopted: by the 2008 Convention of Delegates