

**WHEREAS,** the use of alcohol is the number one cause of harm to unborn babies in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS,** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, an irreversible, lifelong condition found among babies whose mothers consumed too much alcohol during pregnancy, is the leading known cause of mental retardation; and

**WHEREAS,** approximately one in every 300 babies in the Palmetto State is born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and one in every 50 has a wider range of alcohol-related birth defects; and

**WHEREAS,** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the only type of mental retardation that is completely preventable and requires a multi-level approach, including community education programs and interventions, to protect the health of our unborn babies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2009, as

## **FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to help ensure the brightest possible future for the children of the Palmetto State.