

PRESS RELEASE

Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- **FASD is common.** Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), which is caused by alcohol use during pregnancy, affects more children than autism. (*CDC, Data and Statistics 2006*)
- **FASD is costly.** Treating people affected by FASD costs Minnesota over \$131 million each year. By preventing just one case, we can save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. (*L. Burd & R. Howard, 2004*)
- **FASD is preventable.** There is no cure, but it is 100% preventable. FASD can only result if a woman drinks alcohol during her pregnancy. Education, training and increasing awareness are imperative.

On March 9, 2010 from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM, the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS) advocates, volunteers, board, and staff will rally in the Capital Rotunda to continue to bring awareness about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, and the impact this issue has on all of us here in Minnesota. Several individuals living with FASD and families raising children with this disability will share their personal stories, as well as several key Legislators who are passionate about this issue, are confirmed to address the crowd.

FASD takes an enormous financial and emotional toll on affected families and society as a whole. Each year more than 8,500 babies are born in Minnesota with brain damage caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. The health effects of FASD cost Minnesotans an estimated \$290,300 per day. Beyond the numbers, the devastating impact on families is profound. Children with FASD face a variety of challenges including a higher vulnerability to substance abuse, mental illness and criminal behavior.

MOFAS was founded in 1998 by former First Lady, Susan Carlson, and works around the state of Minnesota to educate and train about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy and to provide intervention and support for those individuals and families already affected. For more information contact MOFAS at 651-917-2370 or toll-free 1-866-90-MOFAS; 1885 University Avenue, Suite 395, St. Paul, MN 55104; www.mofas.org.

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