



National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc.

April 28, 2010

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Robert I. L. Morrison

Dear NASADAD Members and Colleagues:

On behalf of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), the National Treatment Network (NTN), the National Prevention Network (NPN) and the Women's Services Network (WSN), I am pleased to share the enclosed resolution which was passed unanimously by the NASADAD Board of Directors. This resolution recommends that all NASADAD members consider sending letters to the makers of home pregnancy tests encouraging them to place a warning in a prominent and conspicuous location in the packaging and/or labeling of their test kits which advises women about the risks of using alcohol during pregnancy.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) are the leading known cause of preventable mental retardation (May & Gossage; 2001), and are entirely preventable. As you know, in 2005 then Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona warned that "no amount of alcohol consumption can be considered safe during pregnancy" (Surgeon General's news release 2/21/05). In addition, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) advises against drinking at all during pregnancy.

Preventing FASD is also cost-effective. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), one kind of FASD, costs the United States nearly four billion dollars per year (Lupton, Burd, & Harwood, 2004). Preventing a single case of FAS can provide cost savings of over one million dollars (Lupton, Burd, & Harwood, 2004).

Please feel free to share this letter and the resolution with your colleagues. Also included are the addresses of four major home pregnancy test kit manufacturers, some draft inserts, and a draft letter that NASADAD members and other stakeholders may want to use as template for their letters to encourage home pregnancy test kit manufacturers.

We look forward to working with you to prevent FASD, and to encourage home pregnancy test makers to include warnings about the risks of using alcohol during pregnancy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Flo Stein".

Flo Stein (NC)
NASADAD President

Cc: Robert Morrison, Executive Director

NASADAD Board Resolution – passed unanimously on January 18, 2010

Whereas alcohol use by a pregnant woman can be dangerous to the woman's own health and her ability to support a healthy pregnancy or directly affect her baby's development; and

Whereas alcohol is one of the most dangerous drugs for a woman to use during pregnancy, particularly in the early weeks, and can cause fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD); and

Whereas FASDs are the leading known cause of preventable mental retardation (May & Gossage; 2001); and

Whereas a recent survey found that nearly 12 percent of pregnant women report using alcohol in the past month (SAMHSA/OAS; 2008); and

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are entirely preventable by **not** drinking alcohol during pregnancy; and

Whereas preventing only one case of fetal alcohol syndrome (one kind of FASD) can provide cost savings of over one million dollars (Lupton et al. 2004); and

Whereas, the Board of the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) believes that it is important for women to be educated about the adverse effects of alcohol during pregnancy.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board recommends that all State substance abuse agency directors consider sending letters to the makers of home pregnancy tests encouraging them to place a warning in a prominent and conspicuous location in the packaging and/or labeling of their test kits which advises women about the risks of using alcohol during pregnancy.

Manufacturer's - At Home Pregnancy Kits

Name	Phone	Address
Sales Enterprises Mohmound Sales, Owner	800.351.0177	5902 Enterprise Court Frederick, MD 21703
ACON Laboratories President and CEO- Jixun Lin	858-875-8000	9975 Summers Ridge Road San Diego, CA 92121
Arben Bioscience, LLC Neil Holtzman, President	800.899.7353 585.777.4090	250 Mill Street Suite 400 Rochester, NY 14614
Inverness Medical, Inc. Steve Ferullo- Vice President, US Sales	858.535.2031 781.647.3900	51 Sawyer Rd., Suite 200 Waltham MA 02154

WARNING

The defects and disabilities from a pregnant woman drinking alcohol prior to or during pregnancy are known as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs), and include fetal alcohol syndrome. FASDs last a lifetime and there is no cure.

In 2005 the United States Surgeon General stated, in part:

“A pregnant woman should not drink alcohol.

“A pregnant woman who has already used alcohol during her pregnancy should stop right away.

“A woman who is thinking about getting pregnant should stop using alcohol.

“Nearly half of all births in the United States are unplanned. Therefore, any woman who could become pregnant should talk to her doctor and take steps to lower the chance of exposing her baby to alcohol.”

A baby with FAS may be born with a small head, identifiable facial features, may have abnormalities or deformities of the limbs, hands or feet, and heart, liver and kidney problems are common, as well as vision and hearing problems. Children do not outgrow FAS and its serious consequences.

WARNING

United States Surgeon General

Pregnant women should not drink alcohol; if you have already used alcohol, stop; if you're thinking about getting pregnant, do not start.

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy has been known to cause birth defects.

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

1700 K STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-4037
TDD (916) 445.1942
(916) 445-1943



Subject: Risk of Alcohol Use While Pregnant

The California Departments of Alcohol and Drug Programs and Public Health are intensifying efforts to educate women about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). A warning placed in the packaging of at-home pregnancy kits would educate women of the effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder occurs in approximately 10 per 1,000 live births or 40,000 babies per year. FASD lasts a lifetime and is entirely preventable by not drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the most serious and recognized condition in the spectrum, is estimated to occur in 0.5 to 2 per 1,000 live births.

In 2005 the United States Surgeon General stated, in part; "A pregnant woman should not drink alcohol. A pregnant woman who has already used alcohol during her pregnancy should stop right away. A woman who is thinking about getting pregnant should stop using alcohol."

The Office of Women's and Perinatal Services at the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs will be contacting your company to discuss how we can work together to inform women of the risks of drinking alcohol while pregnant or trying to become pregnant. We look forward to the possibility of working together to address this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Renée Zito in black ink.

RENÉE ZITO, LMSW, CASAC
Director
California Department of Alcohol
and Drug Programs

Handwritten signature of Mark B. Horton in black ink.

MARK B. HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director
California Department of Public Health



DO YOUR PART TO HELP CALIFORNIA SAVE ENERGY
For energy saving tips, visit the Flex Your Power website at
<http://www.fypower.org>