



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. It is estimated to occur in one out of every 110 individuals and is four times more prevalent in boys than girls. Approximately 1.5 million individuals in the United States have autism, qualifying it as an urgent public healthcare crisis that demands a national response; and
- WHEREAS: Autism affects the normal development of the brain in the areas of reasoning, social interaction and communication skills. Symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong difficulties in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction and leisure activities; and
- WHEREAS: Autism has wide-ranging implications for the entire family of the diagnosed individual. Early diagnosis, research, training, education, and therapy are vital to reducing the negative effects of disorder; and
- WHEREAS: Support groups, such as the Greater Georgia Chapter of the Autism Society of America, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, human treatment, and appropriate education for all persons with autism. These groups remain committed to their cause and to educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability; and
- WHEREAS: Autism is a complex disability that requires research to find a cure and prevention. Increased recognition and understanding of autism are necessary to ensure that individuals are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives; and
- WHEREAS: It is in the interest of the state to recognize achievements in this field and to continue these efforts by promoting the awareness and fostering the understanding of autism so individuals living with this disability may achieve their greatest potential; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF