



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Chiari Malformations (CMs) are structural defects in the cerebellum, the portion of the brain that controls balance. The cerebellum and brainstem are pushed downward as a result of the indented bony space at the lower rear of the skull being smaller than normal, which may block the flow of cerebrospinal fluid to and from the brain; and

WHEREAS: Chiari Malformations is a serious neurological disorder that affects well over 300,000 people in the United States. The condition was first identified by Austrian pathologist Hans Chiari in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is categorized in order of severity from types I to IV; and

WHEREAS: The cause of CMs is unknown, but the symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and include severe head and neck pain, unsteady gait, poor hand coordination, numbness and tingling of the hands and feet, dizziness, difficulty swallowing, vision problems, and slurred speech; and

WHEREAS: Medications are used to treat and alleviate symptoms of CMs, however, surgery is the only treatment that can relieve the pressure on the cerebellum and spinal cord and cease the progression of detrimental changes to the brain and spinal canal; and

WHEREAS: CMs occur three times more often in females than in males and research is being conducted to identify possible causes, including heredity, as well as better treatment options and a cure; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2014 as CHIARI MALFORMATION 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley  
CHIEF OF STAFF