



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow obstruction and breathing related problems, including emphysema, chronic bronchitis, asthma, and severe bronchiectasis; and

WHEREAS: COPD is a progressive disease that affects an estimated 24 million people nationwide, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed, and 70 percent of whom are under the age of 65. The nationwide costs of COPD in 2010 was \$49.9 billion, which included healthcare services, indirect costs, and the deterioration of personal health; and

WHEREAS: In 2008, COPD became the third leading cause of death in the United States, 12 years earlier than predicted, and the only top-5 cause of death that is not declining. COPD is considered to be the second leading cause of disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD and other risk factors include exposure to air pollution, second-hand smoke, and genetics. A genetic condition called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency may cause an individuals to develop COPD; and

WHEREAS: There is no cure for COPD, but increased awareness, early detection, and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs, improved quality of life, and self-sufficiency for our residents; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2015 as CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE 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 19th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF