



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### FABRY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Fabry disease is a rare, progressive, and life-threatening inherited genetic disorder that causes children and adults to suffer a cascade of life-altering symptoms, including pain, inability to perspire, unexplained fevers, and chronic gastrointestinal upset. These symptoms often progress to include hearing loss, lung disease, kidney disease, cerebrovascular disease, heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure; and
- WHEREAS: Fabry disease is caused by deficient activity of the lysosomal enzyme alpha-galactosidase A which causes an insufficient breakdown of lipids. Lipids then build up to harmful levels in the body, causing lysosomal and cellular dysfunction; and
- WHEREAS: Fabry disease is often misdiagnosed. When diagnosed, it is often too late to properly treat due to irreversible organ damage having already occurred. Increased physician and family education are critical to ensure early disease recognition; and
- WHEREAS: The current estimate of Fabry disease incidences in the United States is one in 50,000 males and almost twice that for females. Additionally, recent newborn screening studies in other countries, as well as pilot studies in the United States, suggest the amount of people with Fabry disease is significantly higher than current incident rates indicate; and
- WHEREAS: Enzyme assay tests for males and molecular DNA tests for females can test for Fabry disease, and it is vital that awareness is raised to fight this tragic but treatable disorder; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as FABRY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and urge our citizens to learn more about this devastating condition.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF