



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS: Food Allergy is a growing public health concern. An estimated 15 million people have food allergies, 6 million of which are children under the age of 18. Furthermore, research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children; and
- WHEREAS: There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to food are an important measure to prevent serious health consequences. Failure to promptly treat food anaphylaxis with epinephrine is a risk factor for fatalities, and prompt administration is crucial to successfully treating anaphylactic reactions; and
- WHEREAS: Eight foods account for 90 percent of all food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish, and even small amounts of a food allergen can cause a reaction; and
- WHEREAS: The CDC reported that food allergies result in more than 300,000 ambulatory-care visits each year, including about 90,000 for probable anaphylaxis, a serious, rapid allergic reaction that may cause death. Eating away from home can pose a significant risk to people affected by food allergy. Research suggests that close to half of fatal food allergy reactions are triggered by food served in a restaurant or other food service establishment; and
- WHEREAS: There are many state and national organizations, including Northeast Georgia Food Allergy Support Group and Food Allergy Research and Education, dedicated to ensuring the safety and inclusion of individuals with food allergies while educating the general public, schools, restaurants, daycares, and food allergic individuals about life threatening allergic reactions, risk management procedures, and how to enact an emergency action plan; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 11-17, 2014, as FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF