



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Approximately 5,300,000 Americans are chronically infected with either the hepatitis B or hepatitis C viruses. These diseases are among the most common causes of liver cancer, one of the most lethal and fastest growing cancers in the United States, and are among the most common causes of chronic liver disease and liver cirrhosis. Hepatitis B and C are also the most common indication for liver transplantation; and
- WHEREAS: More than 18,000 deaths per year in the United States can be attributed to viral hepatitis, with hepatitis C also being a leading cause of death in Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Viral hepatitis disproportionately affects the African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander communities; and
- WHEREAS: Deaths related to hepatitis C now surpass deaths related to HIV/AIDS. Nearly 75 percent of chronic hepatitis C infections are among those born between 1945 and 1965. As such, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommend that anyone born between these years be tested at least once for hepatitis C; and
- WHEREAS: The annual healthcare costs attributable to viral hepatitis in the United States are significant. These multi-billion dollar costs can be avoided by screening and diagnosing individuals earlier, connecting them to appropriate treatment and care; and
- WHEREAS: Persons infected with the hepatitis B and C viruses are often unaware of their status for as long as 10 to 20 years and are unknowingly reservoirs for the continued spread of the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that the hepatitis B and C viruses are diseases of major public health importance and has recommended the implementation of risk-reduction counseling and services; identification, counseling, and testing of persons at risk; medical management of infected persons; professional and public education; and surveillance and research to monitor disease trends; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2014 as HEPATITIS 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 23rd day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF