



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: The number of individuals who have a latex allergy has grown exponentially to over thirty-seven million people in the United States, including up to seventeen percent of health care workers and up to sixty-eight percent of children with spina bifida; and

WHEREAS: Latex allergy patients face a constant threat to their life from exposure to this allergen. Reactions can be caused from simply touching a latex product or inhaling the airborne latex particles. There is no cure for a latex allergy, and every exposure increases the sensitivity and severity of the patient's reaction. The only hope for the latex allergy sufferer to stay alive is a strict avoidance of all latex based products; and

WHEREAS: It is not just latex gloves that hold this danger as items made with natural rubber are found in over forty-thousand products used in every aspect of our lives. From rubber bands to balloons, sports equipment to hair elastic and medical devices, every day is a struggle to balance life and work while staying safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS: Hidden dangers also exist in cross-reactive syndromes where proteins in some fruits, vegetables, nuts, pollens, herbs, and flowers mimic the proteins found in latex. The reactions to these foods and products in latex allergy patients can be as violent and as lethal as a reaction to natural rubber latex; and

WHEREAS: With dangers of latex exposure in our communities, latex allergy patients face a daily challenge in leading a safe and normal existence. Tasks considered routine can turn into a life threatening disaster; and

WHEREAS: These exposures to natural rubber latex result in over two-hundred cases of anaphylaxis and up to ten deaths per year. The effects of the allergy can cause distress and rebound reactions for days after exposure; and

WHEREAS: The strongest protective measure for those enduring this condition is education. For the past twenty years, organizations such as the American Latex Allergic Association have worked to spread knowledge about the dangers of latex allergies and to help allergic patients work with their communities and healthcare providers to use safe non-latex alternatives; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2015, as LATEX 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 September in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF