



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

- WHEREAS: "Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders" is an umbrella term that encompasses maternal mental illness during pregnancy and up to one year postpartum. These illnesses include antepartum depression/anxiety, postpartum depression, post partum anxiety, postpartum obsessive-compulsive disorder, and postpartum psychosis, among others; and
- WHEREAS: Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are the leading complication of childbirth in the U.S. These disorders are estimated to affect more than 30,000 Georgia women, regardless of ethnicity, age, or socioeconomic status. Maternal mental illnesses impact the physical and mental well-being of not only the mother, but the child and entire family unit as well; and
- WHEREAS: Maternal Mental Health Week encourages local communities to raise awareness of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and to support the mental health of Georgia mothers; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes the efforts of the various organizations to provide services, education, and support to Georgians experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 16–22, 2014, as MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn more about these illnesses and provide support for maternal mental health in our State.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF