



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Problem gambling, defined as an urge to continuously gamble despite severe negative consequences or a desire to stop, is a serious public health issue affecting an estimated 380,000 Georgians of all ages, socioeconomic levels, and ethnic backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS: Problem gambling can have a significant negative societal and economical impact on individuals, families, businesses, and communities. If treated, these damaging effects to both individuals and society as a whole can be drastically minimized; and
- WHEREAS: It is imperative that we bring awareness to the seriousness of problem gambling so citizens may know the symptoms and treatment options necessary to help themselves or their loved ones; and
- WHEREAS: Numerous individuals, professionals, and organizations, including the Georgia Council on Problem Gambling, are dedicated to educating the public about the consequences of this disease as well as the availability and effectiveness of treatment; and
- WHEREAS: Problem Gambling Awareness Month is also a time to celebrate and admire the men and women in Georgia who have worked diligently to overcome problems associated with their gambling behavior; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2015 as PROBLEM GAMBLING 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF