



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### ALS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), often known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive disorder of motor neurons that causes the death of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control the action of voluntary muscles; and
- WHEREAS: The initial symptoms of ALS include muscle weakness, atrophy, cramping, twitching, stiffness, and spasticity, which results in problems with mobility as well as speaking, swallowing, and breathing. In addition to physical symptoms, the advanced stages of ALS can be financially devastating, depleting the resources of patients and their families; and
- WHEREAS: ALS is responsible for nearly two deaths in every 100,000 people. Each year, more than 5,600 people in the United States are diagnosed with this illness, for which there is no known cure. The life expectancy for those diagnosed is between two and five years following the diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations such as the ALS Association of Georgia serve, advocate for, and empower individuals affected by ALS. These organizations support aggressive research initiatives and clinical programs that are dedicated to finding advanced treatments and a cure for ALS; and
- WHEREAS: ALS Awareness Day provides an opportunity to recognize the critical research underway to eradicate this disease and to increase public awareness of the devastating impact ALS has on patients, as well as their families and friends; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2018, as ALS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF