



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is one of the most common and severe hereditary disorders. Alpha-1 may cause life-threatening illnesses, including lung disease in adults and liver disease among patients of any age; and
- WHEREAS: Alpha-1 has been identified in nearly all populations and ethnic groups. It is estimated that 1 in every 2,500 Americans have Alpha-1 and approximately 20 million Americans are carriers of the single gene defect that causes Alpha-1; and
- WHEREAS: Initial symptoms of Alpha-1 may include shortness of breath following mild activity, chronic cough, wheezing, and unexplained weight loss; and
- WHEREAS: Alpha-1 can be diagnosed through a series of simple blood tests. However, the disorder is often underdiagnosed or misdiagnosed; and
- WHEREAS: Fewer than 10 percent of those predicted to have Alpha-1 have been properly diagnosed and research indicates that affected individuals will visit an average of five doctors before a proper diagnosis is made; and
- WHEREAS: Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency Awareness Month provides opportunities to increase awareness of this serious and often misdiagnosed disorder. During November, health care providers, patients, and educational institutions are encouraged to raise awareness of Alpha-1 to improve diagnostic outcomes, expand treatment options, and provide better care and support for those affected by the condition; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2018 as ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF