



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Ataxia is a neurological sign consisting of lack of voluntary coordination of muscle movements caused by progressive deterioration of nerve cells in the spinal cord and cerebellum due to a number of related neurological disorders; and
- WHEREAS: Ataxia is caused by a gene that is passed from generation to generation, either as a dominant or recessive trait. Symptoms can occur at any age, but most often arise during ages 20 – 40 when the trait is dominant and during the teenage years when the trait is recessive; and
- WHEREAS: Ataxia symptoms include a stumbling walk, hand incoordination and slurred speech; and
- WHEREAS: Symptoms of ataxia progress over a period of 10 to 20 years, and patients may be confined to a wheelchair after the onset of symptoms; and
- WHEREAS: An estimated 150,000 individuals in the United States are affected by hereditary ataxia and sporadic ataxia. Ataxia can affect anyone at any time, without regard to age, sex or race. As there is currently no known cure, the only defense is research and prevention through education and by generating awareness; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2017, as ATAXIA 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 25th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF