



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Autism spectrum disorders are a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors and speech and nonverbal communications. Autism spectrum disorders affect approximately 1 in 68 children and an unknown number of adults in the United States of all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Autism spectrum disorders are roughly four times more prevalent in boys than in girls; and
- WHEREAS: Symptoms and characteristics of autism spectrum disorders may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong difficulties in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction and leisure activities; and
- WHEREAS: An autism spectrum disorder has wide-ranging implications for the entire family of the diagnosed individual. Early diagnosis, research, training, education and therapy are vital to reducing the negative effects of the disorder; and
- WHEREAS: Numerous support groups throughout Georgia have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, treatment and appropriate education for all persons with autism spectrum disorders. These groups remain committed to their cause and to educating families, professionals and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability; and
- WHEREAS: Autism spectrum disorders are complex and require research to find cures and effective methods of prevention. Increased recognition and understanding of autism are necessary to ensure that individuals are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives; and
- WHEREAS: It is in the interest of the state to recognize achievements in this field and to continue these efforts by promoting awareness, care, services and opportunities for individuals affected by autism so they may achieve their greatest potential; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2017, as AUTISM AWARENESS DAY in Georgia and April 2017 as AUTISM 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 23rd day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF