



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION CESAREAN AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: The National Center for Health Statistics has reported that the cesarean section rate in the United States and Georgia is 32.8 and 34 percent respectively, and the cesarean section rate remains alarmingly higher than the 15 percent average rate recommended by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS: This rate increase coincides with the Centers for Disease Control report that the maternal death rate is rising for the first time in decades as well as the World Health Organization's data showing that mothers die at a higher rate in the U.S. than 49 other countries; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 46,000 women in Georgia give birth by cesarean section each year; and

WHEREAS: When a cesarean is necessary, it can be a lifesaving technique for both mother and baby. However, research also shows that cesarean surgery carries twice the risk of injury and death for both mother and baby if surgery is not necessary. Women who undergo a cesarean procedure experience a high rate of hysterectomy, blood transfusion, admission to intensive care, prolonged hospital stay, and death. Babies born by cesarean are 45 percent more likely to be in the neonatal intensive care unit for seven days and 41-82 percent more likely to die; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as CESAREAN 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*C. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF