



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Breastfeeding lays a foundation for health in life. One of the most effective preventative measures a mother can take to protect the health of her infant, including reducing the child's risk for becoming overweight or obese, is to breastfeed; and

WHEREAS: Breast milk is easily digested and contains antibodies from the mother that pass to the infant. This helps to protect against illness, including diabetes, ear infections and allergies. Breastfeeding has been shown to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and

WHEREAS: Support from the community, health care providers, employers, and family members helps to ensure breastfeeding awareness; and

WHEREAS: Breastfeeding is a resource naturally provided to new mothers. Breastfeeding reconciles inequities, giving most children who are breastfed the best possible start possible for a healthy life; and

WHEREAS: Breastfeeding is recommended as the optimal nutrition for infants by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the U.S. Surgeon General, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Georgia Department of Public Health; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2016 as BREASTFEEDING 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 July in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF