



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Food Allergy is a growing public health concern. An estimated 9 million adults and nearly 6 million children have food allergies with young children affected most. Individuals with food allergies who also have asthma may be at increased risk for severe or fatal food allergy reactions; and

WHEREAS: There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to food are an important measure to prevent serious health consequences. Failure to promptly treat food anaphylaxis with epinephrine is a risk factor for fatalities, and prompt administration is crucial to successfully treating anaphylactic reactions; and

WHEREAS: Eight foods account for 90 percent of all food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish, and even small amounts of a food allergen can cause a reaction; and

WHEREAS: The CDC reported that food allergies result in more than 300,000 ambulatory-care visits a year among children under the age of 18 and food allergy is the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting. Eating away from home can pose a significant risk to people affected by food allergy. Research suggests that close to half of fatal food allergy reactions are triggered by food served by a restaurant or other food service establishment; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 20 to 25 percent of epinephrine administrations in schools involve individuals whose allergy was unknown at the time of the reaction, and more than 15 percent of school aged children with food allergies have had a reaction in school. Students have died in schools due to delays or failures to properly recognize and treat anaphylaxis. Georgia currently has stock epinephrine laws in place for both private and public schools; and

WHEREAS: There are many state and national organizations dedicated to educating the general public, schools, restaurants, daycares, and food allergic individuals about life threatening allergic reactions, risk management procedures, and how to enact an emergency action plan; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 12-18, 2013, as FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Cl. W. R.

CHIEF OF STAFF