



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ in the body. While a person's immune system normally protects the body from infection and disease, those with sarcoidosis have overactive immune systems that result in damage to the body's own tissues. While the cause of this disease is currently unknown, research suggests that bacteria, viruses, or chemicals may trigger its onset; and

WHEREAS: Once thought rare, sarcoidosis is now known to be common and affects people worldwide. The disease can affect people of any age, race, and gender, however, it is most common among adults between the ages of 20 and 40 and in certain ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS: In the United States, sarcoidosis most commonly targets the lungs and lymph nodes, but the disease can and usually does affect other organs as well, including the skin, eyes, liver, salivary glands, sinuses, kidneys, heart, bones, muscles, brain, and nervous system; and

WHEREAS: The month of April provides citizens of Georgia and the United States the opportunity to expand sarcoidosis awareness. Organizations around the state are making major contributions to spreading knowledge about this disease through outreach, education, and screening programs that promote life-saving diagnostic testing for early detection; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as SARCOIDOSIS 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 18th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

C. W. R.

CHIEF OF STAFF

