



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION SMOKING CESSATION DAY

WHEREAS: Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States. Each year, cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke causes one in five deaths in America. More than 10,000 people die in Georgia every year from tobacco related illnesses; and

WHEREAS: Smoking costs Georgians \$1.2 billion in direct health care costs each year. States across the country have significantly improved the health of their citizens by employing high-impact, cost-effective tobacco control and prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia sees benefit in reducing the smoking rate and preventing others from starting. October 9, 2012 marks the beginning of the annual open enrollment period for state employees to select health benefits specific to their individual and family needs, and the opportunity to choose tools such as smoking cessation programs that lead to changing behaviors for the betterment of their health; and

WHEREAS: Taking part in anti-smoking behaviors like smoking cessation can lead to healthy hearts, stress reduction, and healthier minds. Tobacco free employees are healthier and more productive, providing better services to the Georgia citizens they serve; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2012 as SMOKING CESSATION DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Cl. W. R.

CHIEF OF STAFF