



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

WHEREAS: A lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and other health problems among children. Being able to walk or bicycle to school offers an opportunity to build activity into daily routine; and

WHEREAS: An important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about pedestrian safety and to become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their journey to school each day as well as the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and air pollution; and

WHEREAS: Community members and leaders can make a plan to enable children to safely walk and bicycle in our communities and develop a list of suggestions for improvements that can be implemented over time. Hundreds of children can be saved each year if communities take steps to make pedestrian safety a priority; and

WHEREAS: Children, parents, and community leaders around Georgia are joining together to walk to school and evaluate walking and bicycling conditions in their communities with the help and support of the Georgia Department of Transportation and organizations like the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 6, 2013, as WALK TO SCHOOL DAY in Georgia and encourage all citizens to consider the safety and health of children today and everyday.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Ch. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF