



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED SPINAL ASSOCIATION

- WHEREAS:** In 1948, members of this organization advocated for and secured the first accessible housing bill in the United States, Public Law 80-702, which provided federal funds for the building of accessible homes for paralyzed veterans; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1968, members of this organization advocated for the passage of the Architectural Barriers Act, which guarantees equal access to federally funded buildings and facilities for wheelchair users and all Americans with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1985, New York City settled a lawsuit initiated by United Spinal Association National Chapter, agreeing to make all city buses, key subway stations, and commuter rail stations and all new transit stations accessible to wheelchair users. They also established a paratransit system for people unable to use mass transit, leading to a model that would be incorporated as part of the transportation provisions of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Regardless of a person's level of abilities, United Spinal Association and the Atlanta Chapter seeks to build an inclusive world which removes barriers, particularly for wheelchair users, that embraces the talents of all people with disabilities to achieve their full potential and provides people with disabilities equal opportunities to pursue their interests and dreams; and
- WHEREAS:** United Spinal Association and Atlanta Chapter continues to support and advocate on behalf of more than 2 million Americans living with spinal cord injuries or neurological disorders, as well as all veterans, through proven programs and services; and
- WHEREAS:** The legacy of James J. Peters, who once described the straightforward strategy in advocating for Americans with disabilities as simply refusing to accept no for an answer, is alive and well throughout United Spinal Association and Atlanta Chapter; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 31, 2021, as the 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED SPINAL ASSOCIATION in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Brandon Kipertovich*

CHIEF OF STAFF