



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS:** The March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS:** Premature birth is the leading cause of death in newborn babies. Prematurity is defined as birth before 37 completed weeks of gestation. Premature babies who survive may suffer immediate complications and often face lifelong health problems, such as learning disabilities, vision and hearing impairment, and cerebral palsy; and
- WHEREAS:** Prematurity and birth defects are the leading causes of infant mortality in Georgia, but the March of Dimes in Georgia has worked extensively to promote access to health services and health coverage that help to reduce premature birth; and
- WHEREAS:** The month of November is recognized as World Prematurity Awareness Month to bring about recognition of this global health crisis, and November 17 is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Day across the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** The March of Dimes and its volunteers continue to advocate for national and state health policies and programs that affect women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families; and
- WHEREAS:** On Prematurity Awareness Day, the State of Georgia recognizes the work being done to decrease premature births and encourages Georgians to learn about the risks associated with premature births and what they can do to help lower premature birth rates; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2021 as **PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY** in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Manton Kipstrich*

CHIEF OF STAFF