

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

**WHEREAS:** Congenital heart defects are one of the most frequently occurring birth defects and a leading cause of deaths related to birth defects worldwide; and

**WHEREAS:** Over one million families across America face the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects. Each year, approximately 40,000 babies are born in the United States with these conditions; and

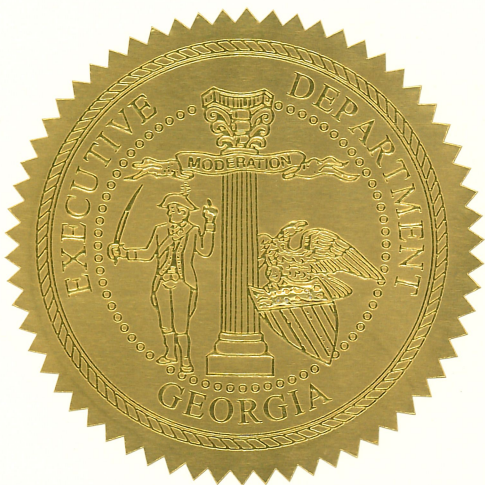
**WHEREAS:** Some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until month or years after birth. When the condition goes undiagnosed, sudden cardiac death can occur, especially in youth athletes; and

**WHEREAS:** Despite these alarming statistics, newborns and young athletes are still not regularly screened for congenital heart defects; and

**WHEREAS:** Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week Provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected by congenital heart defects to celebrate life, remember the loved ones they have lost, honor dedicated health professionals, and share information with the public and the media; and

**THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2022, as CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Brandon Kipertovich*

CHIEF OF STAFF