



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** “Sickle cell disease” refers to a group of inherited disorders in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle and do not last as long as normal, round red blood cells, which leads to anemia; and
- WHEREAS:** Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder affecting approximately 100,000 Americans, including 1 in 365 Black or African Americans and 1 in 16,300 Hispanic Americans, and 10,000 Georgians; and
- WHEREAS:** Sickle cell disease is a chronic condition that can affect any organ, including the kidneys, lungs, and spleen; and research indicates that patients experience many severe complications, including stroke, infections, and pulmonary embolism, and have a shorter life expectancy than the general population; and
- WHEREAS:** Vaso-occlusive crises are a common painful complication of sickle cell disease which may occur several times a year. They typically last several days and are the leading cause of hospitalizations of patients with sickle cell disease due to severe pain and potentially life-threatening complications, including stroke; and
- WHEREAS:** Individuals living with sickle cell disease encounter barriers to obtaining quality care and improving their quality of life, including limitations in access to care, the varied use of effective treatments, the high reliance on emergency care and public health programs, and the limited number of health care providers with knowledge and experience to manage and treat sickle cell disease, and the impact of stigma and bias; and
- WHEREAS:** While there is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, innovative new therapies, and one-time gene therapies, including gene editing therapeutic approaches, are being developed and may offer potential cures for some patients; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby declare September 2023, as SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Matthew Kipertovich

CHIEF OF STAFF