



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a serious public health issue affecting millions of Americans, including an estimated 1 in 7 adults nationwide. It is a progressive condition in which the kidneys do not function properly to filter waste, toxins, and excess fluids from the body, and when left untreated can lead to kidney failure; and
- WHEREAS:** Kidney failure, also known as End-Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD), is fatal without dialysis or a kidney transplant. This number has increased by 32 percent since 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** In Georgia, 30,647 residents are currently living with kidney failure, including 22,338 who depend on dialysis to stay alive and 8,309 who are living with a kidney transplant; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2025, 1,032 kidney transplants were performed in Georgia, yet 2,989 Georgians remain on the kidney transplant waiting list, and only about 1 in 3 individuals on the waiting list received a transplant; and
- WHEREAS:** Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, and high blood pressure is strongly linked to kidney disease progression and worsened outcomes; and
- WHEREAS:** Kidney failure disproportionately impacts communities of color, with Black Georgians experiencing kidney failure at rates more than four times that of White Americans; and
- WHEREAS:** Kidney failure is considered a disability, and more than 80 percent of individuals on dialysis are unable to maintain employment due to the demands of treatment; and
- WHEREAS:** Early detection through laboratory testing and public awareness is critical in preventing progression of kidney disease and improving health outcomes; and
- WHEREAS:** The American Kidney Fund and other community-based organizations provide vital financial assistance, education, and advocacy to Georgians living with kidney disease, ensuring access to lifesaving care; and
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2026, as KIDNEY DISEASE 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 20th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF