



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Oral cancer is a serious public health concern that affects thousands of Americans each year, with more than 50,000 new cases diagnosed annually across the United States, including many here in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** Early detection and prompt treatment of oral cancer can significantly improve survival rates and quality of life, yet too many cases are diagnosed at advanced stages when treatment options are limited; and
- WHEREAS:** Regular dental visits and oral health screenings conducted by dental and medical professionals play a vital role in identifying early signs of oral cancer and improving outcomes for Georgia residents; and
- WHEREAS:** Tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption, prolonged sun exposure, and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection are recognized as major risk factors for oral cancer, and public education about these risks is essential to prevention; and
- WHEREAS:** Increased awareness of symptoms—such as mouth sores that do not heal, persistent pain, difficulty swallowing, or unexplained lumps—can lead individuals to seek timely medical evaluation and potentially lifesaving care; and
- WHEREAS:** Designating April as Oral Cancer Awareness Month in Georgia provides an opportunity to promote education, encourage healthy lifestyle choices, support survivors, improve disease recognition by oral health professionals through advancement of continuing education programs, and reduce the burden of oral cancer across our state; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2026, as ORAL CANCER 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



*B. P. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Lauren M. Curry*

CHIEF OF STAFF