



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA HEARING DAY

- WHEREAS:** Hearing plays an important role in communication and personal relationships, overall health outcomes, psychological well-being, and safety. Hearing loss is typically has been tied to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, and isolation and can be a symptom of underlying medical conditions, including infections, tumors, otosclerosis, and Meniere's disease; and
- WHEREAS:** A study conducted by the Better Hearing Institute concluded that untreated hearing loss has significant income ramifications, including negatively impacting household income by up to \$12,000 annually and costing \$122 billion in lost earnings in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Noise-induced hearing loss is a preventable and significant, though often unrecognized, health problem among American adults and is a growing problem with adolescents due to over-amplification of personal listening devices; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults (15 percent) report some trouble hearing and approximately 28.2 million American adults could benefit from using hearing aids, though a significant percentage of those who need them have never used them; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, a chapter of the International Hearing Society, is composed of hearing health care professionals, including hearing aid specialists and audiologists, who are trained and specialize in the identification and assessment of hearing loss, rehabilitation through the use of hearing aids and related devices, and counseling; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia Hearing Day, founded by the Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, is observed on March 19 to raise awareness of how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and to promote ear and hearing care across the world. The theme of Georgia Hearing Day 2019 is "Hearing the Future," and the focus of this important day is to promote hearing loss prevention awareness and access for individuals with hearing loss to necessary rehabilitation services and the communication tools they require; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2019, as GEORGIA HEARING DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 18th day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Timothy K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF