



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

RARE DISEASE DAY

- WHEREAS:** Nearly 7,000 rare diseases and conditions, each of which individually may affect fewer than 200,000 people, combine to impact nearly 30 million Americans and thousands of Georgians according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 60 percent of patients suffering from a Rare Disease are children under the age of 18; and
- WHEREAS:** Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating enough to significantly impact the lives of those afflicted through a sense of isolation, few treatment options, difficulty in getting an accurate and timely diagnosis of problems, and access to or reimbursement of treatment; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reports that more than 15 million Americans with rare diseases have no treatment specific for their disease despite the approval of roughly 340 "orphan drugs" approved for other diseases; and
- WHEREAS:** Many rare diseases, unlike Lou Gehrig's and Huntington's, are virtually unknown to the American public, forcing patients and their families to bear a large share of the burden for raising funds for research; and
- WHEREAS:** The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) organizes a nationwide observance of "Rare Disease Day" in February each year on which patients, medical professionals, researchers, government leaders and companies developing treatments for rare diseases collectively focus attention on rare diseases; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2019, as RARE DISEASE DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Trinity K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF