



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal abnormality, resulting when a person possesses three rather than the usual two copies of the 21st chromosome. Each year, one in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, representing approximately 6,000 births nationwide and 90 to 100 births in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Down syndrome affects individuals of all races and economic levels. Currently, there are more than 400,000 individuals living with Down syndrome in the United States. Individuals with Down Syndrome should have the opportunity to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, inclusion in their community and reaching their fullest potentials; and
- WHEREAS: Due to medical advances, education, work opportunities, community-based recreation, and social as well as independent living choices, individuals with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities and are active participants in society. They hold gainful employment and participate in recreational and faith-based social activities. Also, as medical care continues to advance, individuals with Down syndrome are living longer and healthier lives as members of their communities; and
- WHEREAS: While research and early intervention have resulted in outstanding improvements in the length and quality of life of individuals with Down syndrome, continued efforts in genetic research are needed to improve, correct, or prevent some of the challenges associated with the condition; and
- WHEREAS: During the month of October, advocacy groups and nonprofit organizations will work to educate the public about Down syndrome, encouraging acceptance and inclusion of individuals with the condition. It is in the interest of the state to recognize the achievements being made by individuals with Down syndrome and to support their acceptance and inclusion in the community by promoting awareness and fostering the understanding of Down syndrome as well as providing community-based supports to them, their families, friends, health care providers, educators, and advocates; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as DOWN SYNDROME 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 21st day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF