BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Dyslexia is a learning disability that is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. Two out of every five American children have literacy difficulties, and one out of every ten struggle with dyslexia; and

WHEREAS: Research shows that a child who finishes second grade without being able to read has only a one in four chance of reading at grade level by the end of elementary school. If a child receives help early on in kindergarten or first grade, that child has a 90-95 percent chance of becoming a fluent reader. If identified early, a learning disability can be treated and the majority of children with learning disabilities will have the opportunity to reach their potential; and

WHEREAS: Only a limited percentage of society and the academic community are aware of how to access and implement treatment options for dyslexia. Such options can be found through organizations like the International Dyslexia Association; and

WHEREAS: The most successful treatment for dyslexia depends on its early recognition. Although symptoms of dyslexia are evident as early as Pre-K age, most children who have this learning disability are not diagnosed until much later when treatment is much more difficult and after they have fallen behind their peers academically; and

WHEREAS: Dyslexia Awareness Month provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected by dyslexia to honor dedicated education and health care professionals who address the needs of this disability. This month also affords us an opportunity to share information with the public, parents, teachers, and all others about dyslexia; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2014 as DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to increase awareness, education, and services for the recognition and treatment of dyslexia for the thousands of dyslexic children and adults in our state.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 18th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris M. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF