BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH DAY

WHEREAS: Maternal mental health is a critically important concern to women, their children and partners, and communities and must be a primary concern for the health and safety of families in the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders currently cause depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive thoughts, and/or psychosis in 1 out 7 Georgia mothers, and only 10 percent of women with these disorders receive treatment; and

WHEREAS: Research has shown that untreated maternal depression and anxiety during pregnancy or postpartum negatively affects birth outcomes and infant development, including infant mental health and brain development; and

WHEREAS: Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are highly treatable through assessment screenings, therapeutic interventions, community-based support services, and medication; and

WHEREAS: Increased awareness, education, and resources for screening, assessment, referral, and treatment of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders should be available to all women and their providers throughout the State of Georgia; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2019, as MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH DAY in Georgia and join maternal mental health support programs in the belief that public awareness regarding maternal mental health is a public health priority.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20th day of April in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
[Signature]
CHIEF OF STAFF