BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION
CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: A congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is an opening in the diaphragm that allows the abdominal organs to push into the chest cavity. This devastating birth defect is often life-threatening as it limits the growth of the lungs; and

WHEREAS: Congenital diaphragmatic hernias occur once out of every 2,500 pregnancies in the United States. They account for 8 percent of all major congenital anomalies. With over 500,000 babies having been born with CDH since 2000, only 50 percent have survived. Despite these high statistics, very few people are aware this condition even exists; and

WHEREAS: There is a need for increased public awareness of CDH, and many dedicated individuals and organizations are working to promote this awareness and to encourage research efforts to one day prevent or successfully treat all those diagnosed with the defect; and

WHEREAS: Proactive diagnosis and appropriate management of fetuses with CDH minimizes the incidence of emergency situations, dramatically improving survival rates; and

WHEREAS: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life, to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and share information with the public and the media; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2016, as CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn more about CDH and provide support to those who are affected.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
Chris M. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF