BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) DAY

WHEREAS: Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) develop and support affiliate organizations across the state that provide volunteer advocacy for abused or neglected children who are involved in juvenile court dependency proceedings through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS: Since its founding 30 years ago, 46 affiliate CASA programs have been established in Georgia and over 25,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for more than 120,000 children throughout the state; and

WHEREAS: Last year alone, 2,486 CASA volunteers advocated for 11,243 children, including more than 10,200 children in the legal custody of the state; and

WHEREAS: CASA is central to fulfilling one of the most fundamental obligations of society by ensuring a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for a child's rights to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with an opportunity to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving and stable family; and

WHEREAS: A CASA volunteer is a deeply committed, specially trained individual who works within the child welfare system and is appointed by a juvenile court judge to provide individualized attention, bring urgency to a child's needs throughout his or her time in state custody, and offer consistency and continuity by helping to connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS: As an external partner, CASA maximizes community resources and support for children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased community involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and coordinated, compassionate responses to child victims and families in crisis; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes CASA volunteers for generously devoting their time and efforts to advocate for the best interests of children in juvenile court dependency proceedings, and we commend the volunteer board members and staff of Georgia CASA and affiliate CASA organizations for their contributions on behalf of Georgia's children; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2018, as COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) DAY in Georgia.

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

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF