BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Children are Georgia's greatest resource and blessing. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders not only threaten members of our younger population, but all age groups, and pose a risk to our state's future; and

WHEREAS: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. The National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome estimates that 40,000 infants are born each year with FASD and that these disorders can affect anyone, regardless of ethnicity, income, or educational level; and

WHEREAS: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are 100 percent preventable when pregnant women abstain from alcohol. FASD contribute to numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failures, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and criminal behavior. FASD is often known as the "invisible disability"; and

WHEREAS: Children and adults with FASD can succeed with treatment, appropriate strategies, interventions, and interdependence. Increasing public awareness of the effects of prenatal consumption of alcohol for primary prevention and the need to support individuals with FASD and their families will contribute to the productive development of individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, family stability, and quality of life; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2017, as FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF