



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION GEORGIA HEALTH LITERACY MONTH

WHEREAS: In Georgia, state leadership, academia, the medical establishment, and employers have all identified improving health and wellness as one of the highest priorities. Health literacy is the capacity to seek out, comprehend, and apply information about health in order to make the best possible health decisions. Increasing health literacy among Georgians can help reduce the burden of many chronic and acute disease conditions; and

WHEREAS: Heart disease, precipitated or aggravated by lifestyle factors, accounts for the leading cause of death for men and women in Georgia and our in our nation. Improving health literacy is a powerful means of preventing or mitigating heart disease for our citizens; and

WHEREAS: Less than adequate health literacy poses significant challenges to public health practitioners, the medical community, and schools as they work to improve health outcomes in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Health literacy is a stronger predictor of patient health outcomes than income, employment, education, or race and ethnicity. Less than adequate health literacy in Georgia leads to improper utilization of health services and poor health outcomes including excess disease burden and mortality and low satisfaction with health care, all of which are avoidable; and

WHEREAS: Organizations like The Georgia Alliance for Health Literacy, the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association and many other Georgia researchers, educators, professional associations, and healthcare providers seek to promote health literacy. Numerous Georgia programs and organizations have created outreach and information projects to communicate matters of health and wellness among patients and consumers, healthcare professionals, and healthcare systems; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2016 as GEORGIA HEALTH LITERACY MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 27th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF