BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Necrotizing fasciitis is an uncommon clinical disease that leads to the degradation of skin tissue, and is commonly referred to as a flesh-eating infection or virus. It was first defined within medical literature in 1883 by Jean Alfred Fournier and was described as a disease of unknown causes; and

WHEREAS: Necrotizing fasciitis is a severe infection that may be caused by more than one type of bacteria, including group A hemolytic, Streptococcus pyogenes and Staphylococcus aureus, or bacteria naturally found in the intestines of healthy individuals; and

WHEREAS: Necrotizing fasciitis can affect individuals of any age for a variety of reasons. In rare occasions, an opening in the skin, such as a scrape, burn, insect bite, puncture wound, or laceration incurred during surgery may allow bacteria to enter the body and result in necrotizing fasciitis; and

WHEREAS: Individuals affected by health issues such as diabetes mellitus, atherosclerotic vascular disease, malignancy, and hypertension are also at an increased risk for the disease due to the body's weakened ability to fight infection; and

WHEREAS: Though it can infect any part of the body, necrotizing fasciitis commonly spreads throughout the abdomen, arms, legs, extremities, and face, particularly around the eyes; and

WHEREAS: Immediate treatment following a diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis is necessary to ensure the infection does not further destroy soft tissue or reduce blood flow. Prevention of necrotizing fasciitis requires a person maintain good health and a strong immune system, as well as engage in effective hygiene practices and proper wound care; and

WHEREAS: While medical progress has assisted in the diagnosis and treatment of necrotizing fasciitis, additional research is needed to better understand the causes, treat symptoms, and discover possible cures for the disease; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes the many citizens and organizations working to increase public awareness of this dangerous disease and enhance the overall quality of life for those affected; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS MONTH and May 31, 2018, as NECROTIZING FASCIITIS 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 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF