BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

PANDAS AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infection (PANDAS) may occur in children when strep or a similar infection causes a misdirected immune response resulting in the inflammation of the brain. This illness causes previously healthy and emotionally adjusted children to experience severe anxiety and emotional disturbances; and

WHEREAS: Children affected by PANS and PANDAS tend to show some of the following symptoms: tics or other abnormal movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety, irritability, aggression, personality changes, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, marked deterioration in learning and school performance and developmental regression, including regression in handwriting; and

WHEREAS: Those affected by PANS or PANDAS may experience moderate to significant improvement following treatment with antibiotics, intravenous immunoglobulin treatment or plasmapheresis; and

WHEREAS: Experts estimate that 1 in 200 children have PANS or PANDAS, and an estimated 160,000 Americans have been diagnosed with PANDAS; and

WHEREAS: PANDAS is not well understood and those affected are often misdiagnosed or undertreated. Health care professionals may not be readily familiar with the most current diagnostic criteria and treatment guidelines for PANS and PANDAS; and

WHEREAS: The Southeastern PANS/PANDAS Association (SEPPA) is a Georgia-based nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to expert, insurance-based care for children and families suffering from PANS and PANDAS; and

WHEREAS: PANDAS Awareness Day provides an opportunity to generate greater public awareness for this serious health issue to strengthen research efforts, expand treatment options, and provide those impacted by the syndromes with a better quality of life; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2018, as PANDAS 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 4th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF