



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION
DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Down Syndrome is a commonly occurring chromosomal abnormality. Each year, about 5,000 babies are born with Down Syndrome. Over 350,000 people in the United States have the condition, with 9,500 living in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Down Syndrome affects individuals of all races and economic levels. Those with Down Syndrome have some degree of cognitive delay, ranging from mild to moderate. There may be common facial characteristics as well as related medical conditions. People with Down Syndrome are unique individuals that may possess these characteristics to different degrees or not at all; and

WHEREAS: Due to medical advances, education, work opportunities, and independent living choices, individuals with Down syndrome lead typical, independent lives. They hold gainful employment and participate in recreational and faith based social activities. Also, as medical care continues to advance, individuals with Down Syndrome are living longer and healthier lives as members of their communities; and

WHEREAS: While research and early intervention have resulted in outstanding improvements in the length and quality of life of individuals with Down Syndrome; continued efforts in genetic research are needed to improve, correct or prevent some of the challenges associated with Down Syndrome; and

WHEREAS: During the month of October, advocacy groups and nonprofit organizations will work to educate the public about Down Syndrome, encouraging acceptance and inclusion of individuals with the condition. It is in the interest of the state to recognize the achievements in this field and to continue these efforts; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October, 2011, as DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 14th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

C. W. R.

CHIEF OF STAFF