



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: A developmental disability is a lifelong, severe and chronic mental and/or physical impairment, manifested before the age 22 that results in substantial functional limitations in three or more areas of life activity, including self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility and economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 5 million people nationwide have a form of developmental disability, with more than 148,000 adults and children in Georgia suffering from an associated mental or physical condition. Recognizing the abilities and contributions of those with developmental disabilities enriches our state and signifies Georgia's commitment to equal opportunity, equal access and equal rights for all citizens; and

WHEREAS: Since its inception in 1971, the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities has become a leading resource for guiding, supporting, joining and developing inclusive communities across the state for people living with disabilities while promoting activities and creating opportunities that enable people with developmental disabilities to exercise their rights to live, learn, work, play and worship in the place and manner of their choice; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities works with a broad coalition of individuals, family members, community groups, civic organizations and government agencies to improve the quality of life of Georgians with developmental disabilities. By coordinating with the National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month's "LIFE Side-by-Side" campaign, the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities seeks to promote better understanding and inclusion of people with disabilities throughout daily life; and

WHEREAS: It is important that individuals with disabilities continue to have opportunities to live productive and meaningful lives through steady employment, a place to call home in the most integrated setting possible and an engaged community of family and friends. Through Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, state agencies, local leaders and volunteers strive to develop solutions to combat the barriers which people with disabilities still face today; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF