



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Underage drinking in Georgia leads to substantial harm, resulting in traffic crashes, violent crime, vandalism, unintentional injury, and risky sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS: The results of the 2011–2012 Georgia Student Health Survey revealed that in 6th grade, 3.6 percent of students reported use of alcohol within 30 days. This number increases to 29 percent by the time students reach 12th grade. There were 277 alcohol-related fatalities in 2011. Young and inexperienced drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 have a higher rate of crashes, injuries, and fatalities than older motorists; and

WHEREAS: Underage drinking cost the citizens of Georgia \$1.4 billion in 2010. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS: Alcohol is the most widely used substance of abuse among American youth. Early alcohol use has long-lasting consequences and abuse of this substance during adolescence can lead to neurological impairment, as well as other disorders. Young individuals who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's children are our greatest resource and most cherished gift. It is imperative that they are able to remain healthy, productive, and safe as they grow and learn so that they can live fulfilling lives. Alcohol abuse, especially its use at a young age, can destroy both potential and lives. During this month, we recognize the danger alcohol abuse poses to our citizens, especially those in their adolescence; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2013 as ALCOHOL 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 August in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris M. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF