BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Mitochondria are located in every cell of the human body and create more than 90 percent of the body's energy. Unfortunately, these organelles may not function properly due to genetic defects, damage caused by narcotics, or destructive molecules called free radicals; and

WHEREAS: Mitochondrial disease causes the body to be unable to turn food into energy to sustain life, which can cause a wide range of health issues such as seizures, low blood counts, blindness, dementia, heart failure and progressive muscle weakness; and

WHEREAS: Mitochondrial disease can cause symptoms at any age and compromise affected individuals' lives significantly. While no cure currently exists, early diagnosis can help patients and their families use proper medications and nutritional supplements to improve the quality of life and even prolong life; and

WHEREAS: Through greater public awareness, the State of Georgia seeks to minimize the devastating effects of this illness among our citizens; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 18-24, 2016, as MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to take cognizance of mitochondrial disease and participate fittingly in the observance of this week.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF