



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS:** Premature birth is the leading cause of death in newborn babies. Prematurity is defined as birth before 37 completed weeks of gestation; and
- WHEREAS:** Premature babies who survive may suffer immediate complications and often face lifelong health problems, such as learning disabilities, vision and hearing impairment, and cerebral palsy; and
- WHEREAS:** Prematurity and birth defects are the leading causes of infant mortality in Georgia, but the March of Dimes in Georgia has worked extensively to promote access to health services and health coverage that help to reduce premature births; and
- WHEREAS:** The month of November is recognized as World Prematurity Awareness Month to bring about recognition of this global health crisis, and November 17 is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Day across the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** On Prematurity Awareness Day, the State of Georgia recognizes the work being done to decrease premature births and encourages Georgians to learn about the risks associated with premature births and what they can do to help lower premature birth rates; and
- WHEREAS:** March of Dimes is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Both March of Dimes and their volunteers continue to promote strong health policies and programs; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2024, as PREMATURITY 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Lauren M. Curry*

CHIEF OF STAFF