



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes and values the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of Georgia's small businesses that keep the state and America's economies growing strong. There are more than 1 million small businesses operating in Georgia. These businesses make up 99.8% of all businesses in Georgia and employ 1.6 million of its residents; and

WHEREAS: Numerous entities, including the Georgia Center of Innovation, International Trade team, and other divisions within the Georgia Department of Economic Development and constituting approximately 80% of the Department's work, the House of Representatives and Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committees, and many others are committed to helping our businesses grow and creating new jobs within the state, assisting rural and urban communities alike to create and enhance local entrepreneurial ecosystems, exemplary workforce training, financial assistance programs, research, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS: Georgia provides a wide array of services to small businesses, including the Small Business Development Centers and access to resources and assistance through programs like the Georgia State Small Business Credit Initiative, which is a state lending program that focuses on supporting small businesses and manufacturers; and

WHEREAS: Governor Kemp signed into law HB128 in 2023 that aims to expand the state of Georgia Business Certification Program and streamline the certification process for minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses, as well as to reduce the challenges that these small businesses face in the state's procurement process. The number of women-owned businesses in America has soared in recent years, with operations in Georgia among the largest contributors to employment and revenue growth and top five for the most black-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS: In 2023, Georgia was named once again the best state in the nation in which to conduct business for the 10th consecutive year; these accolades and others are evidence of the achievement of our efforts, as well as a testament to the success we must look forward to; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 6-10, 2024, as SMALL BUSINESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Laura M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF