



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S FREEDOM INITIATIVE MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Since its founding fourteen years ago, the Children's Freedom Initiative has worked diligently to ensure all of Georgia's children with disabilities have permanent and loving homes, whether with their original birth family or a new one; and
- WHEREAS:** There are approximately 2,000 children with disabilities in custody of the Division of Family and Children Services, and at least 1,000 children with disabilities living in institutional settings in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** Children with even the most significant disabilities can be supported in the home through home and community-based services, an optional Medicaid program that allows people with disabilities to receive an institutional level of care in the home, which is more cost efficient than institutional placement; and
- WHEREAS:** It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of how community-based services provide an invaluable lifeline to children who experience disability in Georgia among parents, policymakers, and other concerned citizens; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2019 as CHILDREN'S FREEDOM INITIATIVE MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26th day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Timothy K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF