



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow limitation and breathing related problems, including shortness of breath, chronic cough, or sputum production; and
- WHEREAS:** COPD is a progressive disease that affects an estimated 24 million people nationwide, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed, and 70 percent of whom are under the age of 65; and
- WHEREAS:** The nationwide cost of COPD in 2010 was \$48.9 billion, which included health care services, indirect costs, and the deterioration of personal health; and
- WHEREAS:** COPD affects 6.9 percent of Georgians and its mortality rates are not declining. It is the third leading cause of death and the second leading cause of disability in the United States. An estimated 16.4 million days of work are lost due to COPD; and
- WHEREAS:** Smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD and other risk factors include exposure to air pollution, second-hand smoke, environmental or occupational irritants, and genetics. A genetic condition called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency may predispose individuals to develop COPD at a younger age; and
- WHEREAS:** There is no cure for COPD, but increased awareness, early detection, and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs, improved quality of life, and self-sufficiency of our residents; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2019 as CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage Georgians to learn more about the prevention and treatment of COPD.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Trinity K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF