



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of injury and death for young people under the age of 25 in the United States and Georgia, with young drivers having much higher crash rates than older, more experienced drivers. The causes of these crashes are well-known and documented. The most fundamental factor is a lack of driving experience; and
- WHEREAS:** Distractions and lack of seat belts are two of the riskiest behaviors Georgia teens take behind the wheel. The top five factors associated with teen-driver car crashes are: 1) Distractions, primarily texting and cell phone use, but also other young passengers; 2) Driving at night/driver fatigue; 3) Speeding; 4) Lower seat belt use (than adults); and 5) Alcohol/drug impairment; and
- WHEREAS:** The Teens in the Driver Seat Program (TDS), in partnership with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Safe Kids Georgia, is based on research showing that teens are significantly influenced by each other (i.e., their peers), and that the peer-to-peer communication culture is an important factor that influences adolescent behavior. Therefore, a primary goal of the TDS Program is to leverage that peer-to-peer communication network in order to increase awareness of primary teen driving risks, and ultimately improve teen driving behavior and decrease automobile crashes involving teen drivers; and
- WHEREAS:** At the end of July 2018, TDS in collaboration with Safe Kids Georgia led by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta reached 75 schools, in 43 counties across Georgia. Reaching more than 92,100 students and the program was led by almost 900 students throughout the state of Georgia; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. Kemp
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Trinity K. Fleming
CHIEF OF STAFF