



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is of presumed neurological origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge; and
- WHEREAS: Many misconceptions concerning dyslexia exist, thus making it critical that information regarding the true nature of dyslexia be disseminated to the public at large; and
- WHEREAS: As many as 15 to 20 percent of the population as a whole have language-based learning disabilities, and 5 percent or more of all children have dyslexia; and
- WHEREAS: Only a small percentage of society and the academic community are aware of how to access and implement treatment options for dyslexia. These options can be found through such organizations as the International Dyslexia Association; and
- WHEREAS: The most successful treatment for dyslexia depends on its early recognition. Signs and symptoms of dyslexia are evident as early as Pre-K age. However, most dyslexic children are being diagnosed at a much later age, when dyslexia treatment is much more difficult and these children have already fallen behind their peers by as many as two grade levels or more; and
- WHEREAS: Dyslexia Awareness Month provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to honor dedicated education and health care professionals and share information with the public and the media; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby recognize October 2009, as DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to increase awareness, education and services for recognition and treatment for the thousands of dyslexic children and adults in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.



*Sonny Perdue*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Ed F. Halcomb*  
CLERK OF STATE