

## **BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS: Breastfeeding promotes bonding between mothers and children, creating a strong foundation for nurturing family relationships, and provides an excellent nutritional start for babies; and

WHEREAS: Breast milk is easily digested and contains antibodies from the mother that pass to the baby and help protect against illness and allergies; and

WHEREAS: Studies have shown that breastfed babies have fewer speech impediments and good cheekbone development and jaw alignment, thereby reducing the need for future orthodontial work; and

WHEREAS: Mothers benefit from breastfeeding, too, as it helps their bodies return to its pre-pregnancy condition more quickly: breastfeeding burns calories, thus enabling a mother to lose more of her pregnancy weight; and

WHEREAS: Breastfeeding is recommended by the United States Surgeon General, the Division of Public Health of the Georgia Department of Human Resources and the majority of health care professionals, and the State of Georgia supports continued research and education in promoting breastfeeding as a high priority to improve the health of babies in our state; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2003 as BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn more about the benefits of breastfeeding.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this first day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand three.