

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities works with a broad coalition of individuals, family members, community groups, organizations and governmental entities to improve the quality of life of Georgians with Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The Council, established in 1971 through an executive order by Governor Jimmy Carter, has successfully brought about greater public support and awareness of disability-related issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS: The Council is charged with creating systems change for Georgians with developmental disabilities and provides a forum and resource to promote a vision, values, goals and a mission of Real Homes, Real Jobs, Real Learning and Real Choice for disabled people and their families; and

WHEREAS: A developmental disability is defined as a life-long, severe and chronic mental or physical impairment that manifests itself before a person reaches the age of 22 and results in substantial functional limitations in at least three areas of life activities, including self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility and economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS: There are more than 117,000 Georgians with developmental disabilities who benefit directly and indirectly from the professional initiatives and collaboration coordinated by the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and its large network of individuals, organizations and agencies; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2003 as Developmental Disability 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 seventh day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.