

IRON OVERLOAD DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Iron Overload Diseases can be caused by a genetic defect, certain types of anemia, accidental ingestion, repeated blood transfusions, inhalation of tobacco smoke or asbestos or overmedication with iron supplements; and

WHEREAS: Primary iron overload is a genetic disorder known as hereditary hemochromatosis, characterized by lifelong excessive absorption of iron from the diet, with iron accumulating in body organs, eventually causing inflammation and damage. Secondary iron overload is related to a problem of red blood cell production; and

WHEREAS: If left untreated or undiagnosed, iron overload can lead to heart attack, diabetes, arthritis, depression, impotence and liver or gall bladder diseases; and

WHEREAS: Getting the right tests is one way to avoid unnecessary organ damage, and it is critical that our citizens take measures to avoid this preventable disorder. Twenty-six of every 200 Georgians are at risk of carrying this gene; and

WHEREAS: During the week of September 21-27, 2003, the Iron Overload Diseases Association will educate our citizens on how to protect their health and learn more about this common but underdiagnosed condition; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 21-27, 2003, as IRON OVERLOAD DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.