

WORLD AIDS DAY IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS: The HIV/AIDS pandemic has taken the lives of more than 25 million people and is projected to take millions more. Almost 2,000 Georgians were diagnosed with AIDS this year and 1,202 died from the disease. On World AIDS Day, countries around the world are united to support the individuals, families, and communities affected by this disease, and to renew our commitment to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, developing and delivering more effective treatments, and finding a cure; and

WHEREAS: To support our struggle against HIV/AIDS, we must call upon the compassion, energy, and generosity of all people. Through their service and dedication, faith-based and volunteer organizations are providing local and global communities with strategies to confront the HIV/AIDS pandemic. By responding to the needs of their neighbors, these organizations and individual citizens offer invaluable support and hope to countless people. These organizations also help overcome dangerous barriers to HIV prevention, care, and treatment such as the stigma and discrimination that often attaches to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. By raising awareness and promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS, we help improve the lives of millions of people around the world and demonstrate the compassion of our Nation; and

WHEREAS: We join the President of the United States and applaud his bold plan to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2003, as WORLD AIDS DAY in Georgia.

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