

# HEALTH CARE DECISIONS WEEK

WHEREAS: It is vitally important for all individuals to consider health care concerns that may arise in the future; and

WHEREAS: Health care planning is a process, rather than a single decision, that helps people consider the kind of care they would want to receive in the event of a serious illness or incapacitation, encourages them to discuss these issues with their loved ones and physicians and assists them in documenting their wishes in writing; and

WHEREAS: Advance directives give individuals the ability to document their wishes relating to health care decisions and to delegate a representative to speak for them should they become unable to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS: Introducing these issues in community settings can help people begin conversations about their health care wishes with a family member, close friend, physician or faith leader; and

WHEREAS: In Georgia there are organizations located throughout the state that work to involve individuals and families in health care planning through educational forums, discussion groups, speakers' bureaus and training; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 7-13, 2005, as HEALTH CARE DECISIONS WEEK in Georgia and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

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