

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Researchers estimate that over 12 million Americans have food allergies, including 3 million children. Many organizations and individuals are dedicated to educating these individuals about life threatening allergic reactions; and

WHEREAS: Food allergy reactions cause upwards of 125,000 visits to the emergency room each year. Some of these patients do not survive and most deaths are caused by individuals unknowingly eating a food containing an ingredient to which they were allergic; and

WHEREAS: Eight foods cause 90 percent of all food allergy reactions. These foods are shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy and wheat; and

WHEREAS: Many everyday situations such as eating at restaurants or in the school lunchroom pose high risk for people with food allergies. Servers should be made aware of any food allergies before a meal is ordered; and

WHEREAS: There is no cure for potentially fatal food allergies. In severely allergic individuals, sudden outbreaks can lead to anaphylaxis – a reaction involving major organs in the body simultaneously – and may cause death in a matter of minutes. Strict avoidance of offending foods is the only way to avoid a reaction; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 9–15, 2010 as FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia and encourage all citizens to become aware of the dangers of food allergies and their management to promote a safer, healthier community.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21st day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand ten.