

# TUBERCULOSIS AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Tuberculosis affects thousands of Georgians, including hundreds who have contracted the active disease and those who have been exposed but have completed treatment to prevent the development of the active disease; and

WHEREAS: On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of Tuberculosis bacillus. The disease is primarily an illness of the respiratory system that spreads by coughing and sneezing. Two billion people, a third of the world's population, are infected, while each year 1.7 million people die from this curable disease; and

WHEREAS: Tuberculosis has wide-ranging implications for the entire family of the diagnosed individual; however, early diagnosis, research, training and education are vital to curing cases and reducing overall deaths resulting from tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS: Tuberculosis is a complex disease that requires recognition and understanding to ensure that individuals with tuberculosis are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated; and

WHEREAS: Significant progress has been made in the areas of research and diagnosis for tuberculosis. Today, tuberculosis is a curable disease when diagnosed and treated correctly; and

WHEREAS: This year the Office of the Governor joins the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National TB Controllers Association, the American Lung Association-Southeast Region, RESULTS International and the Fulton County Department of Health in conducting a TB Awareness Walk on Saturday, March 22 and in recognizing World Tuberculosis Day in Georgia, with the theme of "HALT Tuberculosis-Now is the Time;" now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 24, 2008, as TUBERCULOSIS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia and encourage Georgia's citizens to learn about the signs and symptoms of Tuberculosis, as well as prevention techniques and services available to help eradicate this infectious disease.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.