

# SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is one of the leading genetic killers of children under the age of two. One in forty Americans carry the gene that causes SMA, an inherited motor neuron disease that leads to muscle wasting and, in its most severe form, death during infancy; and

WHEREAS: Spinal Muscular Atrophy crosses all racial and ethnic boundaries and can strike anyone regardless of age, race or gender; and

WHEREAS: Heightened awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy will lead to increased knowledge of the disease and augmented support for SMA research and the families affected by it; and

WHEREAS: Spinal Muscular Atrophy was selected by the National Institutes of Health as the prototype for their accelerated drug recovery effort. It was singled out as the neurological disease closest to an effective treatment; and

WHEREAS: The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has established a model translational research program, SMA Project, to accelerate the process of developing a safe and effective treatment for this devastating disease; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2007 as SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY MONTH in Georgia in order to raise awareness and help promote life-saving research.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand seven.