

## EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT MONTH

WHEREAS: Research has shown that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a powerful tool to help raise working families and individuals out of poverty. An important step in moving toward self-sufficiency, the EITC strengthens efforts toward reducing dependency; and

WHEREAS: Georgians across the state are responding to the call of service by volunteering in tax preparation for low- to moderate-income individuals and families in need. By offering this free service volunteers put hope in fellow citizens' hearts and help ensure that all people realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS: During Georgia Earned Income Tax Credit Month, we recognize the vital contributions of dedicated federal, state and local partners and volunteers, and we encourage Georgians to make a real difference in their communities by volunteering their time to meet the needs of Georgia families; and

WHEREAS: I applaud the partnerships that have helped establish Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites across Georgia and the First Lady's Children's Cabinet for encouraging individuals to support this solution to poverty; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 2006 as EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT MONTH in Georgia and encourage the people of Georgia to recognize the importance of participating in this outstanding program.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand six.