

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Domestic violence is a crime that is also the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in our nation, with almost one third of female murder victims being killed by their husbands, former husbands or boyfriends. One out of every three women in hospital emergency rooms at any given time are there because of domestic violence and 75 percent of this violence occurs after the woman has separated from the batterer; and

WHEREAS: Law enforcement, local and state agencies, community groups, business and faith based organizations must work together to identify effective intervention strategies and education and prevention programs that will disrupt the cycle of violence; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Commission on Family Violence and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who serve victims of domestic violence and their children, support and encourage a coordinated community response in preventing domestic violence; and

WHEREAS: It is essential to raise public awareness of the frequency of domestic violence, recognizing the signs of such violence and intervene before it escalates, so that women and children will not fear for their lives in their own homes; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2003 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and urge all citizens to join this important effort to end the cycle of violence in Georgia's homes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.