

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

WHEREAS: Each year the osteopathic medical profession observes one week as National Osteopathic Medicine Week as a tribute to the Nation's 49,000 plus osteopathic physicians; and

WHEREAS: We are proud that osteopathic medicine plays a significant role in family healthcare in Georgia. Georgia's osteopathic physicians benefit the public in metropolitan cities, in small communities and in rural areas; and

WHEREAS: Today there are more than 49,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) practicing in various specialty areas throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: At the nation's 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine, osteopathic medical students must complete four years of medical school focusing on the science of medicine as well as the osteopathic principles and osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). OMT is a hands-on treatment tool utilized by DOs to help diagnose and treat illness or injury; and

WHEREAS: Despite the rich history of the profession and many contributions to the American healthcare system, there are many who still do not know what a DO does. DOs focus on preventative healthcare and practice a "whole person" approach to medicine. They believe that a patient's lifestyle, including their home, work and social environments, can play a significant role in their health; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 20-27, 2003, as OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.