

OSTEOPOROSIS MONTH

WHEREAS: Osteoporosis is a silent disease of epidemic proportions characterized by debilitating and costly bone loss that is affecting Georgians, especially women, at an unprecedented rate; and

WHEREAS: Three of every four women aged 65 and older have osteoporosis or low bone mass, yet fewer than one in ten received a Medicare-reimbursed bone density test in 2001. More than 1.08 million Georgians were estimated to have osteoporosis in 2002, with prevalence expected to grow 54 percent to 1.67 million by 2020 throughout Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Women with osteoporosis are at high risk for bone fracture, with 35 percent of those hospitalized in Georgia for osteoporotic fractures being discharged to long-term care facilities at a great cost to our citizens; and

WHEREAS: During the month of May, both women and men are encouraged to fight osteoporosis by staying active, knowing their risks and understanding the treatment options that help prevent fractures; and

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2003 as OSTEOPOROSIS MONTH throughout Georgia.

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

