

# OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Ovarian cancer has long been called a "silent killer," because it occurs in an organ deep in the pelvis and produces vague symptoms that may be dismissed; and

WHEREAS: Recent studies have identified factors that put women at higher risk of developing ovarian cancer, such as a family history of breast and ovarian cancer, no pregnancies or infertility, no history of oral contraceptive use, or the use of high-dose estrogen for long periods without progesterone; and

WHEREAS: Early detection remains the most valuable weapon against ovarian cancer; however, there is not a simple early detection method. Subtle symptoms include pelvic and abdominal pressure; bloating; pain, swelling or discomfort; unexpected weight gain or loss, especially weight gain in the abdominal area; gastrointestinal problems; and back pain and fatigue. Women should become familiar with warning signs and should consult their physicians immediately for appropriate testing, such as combining a CA-125, a recto-vaginal exam and transvaginal ultrasound; and

WHEREAS: The chances for survival from ovarian cancer in its late stages are 15 to 20 percent; however, when it is detected early, while the cancer is confined to the ovary in which it appeared, more than 90 percent of women can expect to be cured; and

WHEREAS: By increasing awareness of early warning signs and risk factors, maintaining a healthy diet and consulting regularly with health care professionals, women across Georgia can lead healthier lives; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2003 as OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH 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 August in the year of our Lord two thousand three.