

## WORLD ASTHMA DAY IN GEORGIA

WHEREAS: Asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting about 15 million people; and

WHEREAS: Asthma is the leading cause of childhood hospitalization, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for more than 10 million missed school days each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Each year in the United States two million people are rushed to an emergency room and 5,000 people die from asthma; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 11 percent of Georgia's children have asthma; and

WHEREAS: In Georgia, 29 percent of children with asthma live in a household where one or more adults smoke; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Department of Human Resources, the American Lung Association of Georgia, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are encouraging Georgians to identify and reduce their exposure to environmental triggers in homes and schools, and incorporate environmental controls into their asthma management plans; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2003, as WORLD ASTHMA DAY in Georgia and urge all citizens to become aware of the importance of asthma and its management to promote a safer, healthier community.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.