



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** The Head Start Program began as an eight-week demonstration project designed to help break the cycle of poverty. It provided preschool children from low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and educational needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Head Start has grown since then to serve every 1 in 11 Americans, helping them build the skills needed to be successful in school and in life, with participants less likely to live in poverty or receive public assistance; and
- WHEREAS:** Head Start's reach in Georgia after 57 years of existence provides access for 19,186 eligible families with children ages 3-5, access for 4,820 children under age 3 in Early Head Start programs, and access for 375 eligible children in migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, with priority given to children with disabilities, children with families experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Head Start Association is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to provide education, leadership, and advocacy that supports the Head Start program's efforts in delivering high quality comprehensive services to Georgia's children, families, and communities and is represented on the Georgia Children's Cabinet; and
- WHEREAS:** During Head Start Awareness Month, the State of Georgia recognizes the local community leaders and their dedicated staff across our state who are helping Georgia's most vulnerable children and their families thrive through the delivery of vital early childhood education, health, and family support services, and recognizes the many contributions of Susie D. Welcher, whose efforts were essential to Head Start's growth and success in Georgia; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as HEAD START 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF

