

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman is celebrating the rights of all citizens who live in long-term care facilities during Residents Rights Month, October 2017. Residents' Rights Month is an excellent opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to residents' rights as well as honoring our long-term care residents. We strongly encourage the community to participate in Residents' Rights Month activities and to visit residents, who continue to be important members of our communities. Our volunteer opportunities include serving as Volunteer Ombudsman Representatives, participating in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Advisory Council meetings, and special events. On October 24, 2017, Georgia Governor, Nathan Deal, joined with Department Human Services Commissioner, Robyn Crittenden; Division of Aging Services Director, Abby Cox; State Ombudsman, Melanie McNeil; Local Ombudsman Programs, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Advisory Council members, volunteers and the staff of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to celebrate the month of October as "Residents' Rights Month".







BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

- WHEREAS: In the State of Georgia, more than 70,000 individuals reside in long-term care facilities, including approximately 370 nursing facilities and 2,600 board and care, personal care homes, and assisted living communities; and
- WHEREAS: Federal and state laws guarantee and protect the rights of residents in order to promote and maintain resident dignity and autonomy. All residents should be informed of their rights so they are comfortable and may feel empowered to live with pride and self-determination; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia reaffirms the rights of each long-term care resident to participate in decisions regarding care, to exercise the right to vote, and to engage in the political process; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations and individuals such as the long-term care ombudsmen protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of long-term care facility residents, acting as a voice for those who often cannot speak for themselves and collaborating with state and law enforcement agencies to intervene and prevent resident abuse; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, authorized by the Federal Older Americans Act and Georgia law, was established nearly four decades ago to improve the quality of care and life of residents living in long-term care facilities; and
- WHEREAS: This month, individuals and organizations across the country will celebrate Residents' Rights Month with the theme "It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices" to emphasize the respect and dignity of each resident and highlight the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy, and resident-centered decision making; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF