



## **Governor Perdue Proclaims August SMA Awareness Month**

*For Immediate Release-August 27, 2008*

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ATLANTA, GA – Governor Sonny Perdue once again declares August “Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month” in Georgia. The Governor signed the first proclamation in support of SMA in 2006.

"We thank Governor Perdue for his continued support of the effort to educate the public about SMA. Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month gives us the opportunity to discuss the magnitude of what children living with SMA experience," said Stephanie Miller, President of the Hope and Light Foundation.

SMA is the leading genetic killer of babies and children under the age of two. There are three types of SMA. Type I is the most common and severe form of the disorder. An effective treatment for all types of SMA is on the horizon.

“We appreciate our political leaders helping us raise awareness and spread hope about this deadly genetic disorder, said Miller.

About SMA: Spinal Muscular Atrophy is the number one genetic killer of babies and children under the age of two. SMA is a genetic, motor neuron disease caused by mutations in a single gene. The mutation causes a loss of motor neurons in the spinal cord and the wasting away of a child’s muscle control and strength. An estimated seven and half-million Americans carry the gene for this deadly inherited infant disease. If a carrier has a child with another carrier, there is a one in four chance their child will be born with SMA. The incidence rate is 1 in every 6,000 births.

About the Hope and Light Foundation: Hope and Light Foundation is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 2004 dedicated to finding a cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Through faith, hope, and love, the Hope and Light Foundation endeavors to eliminate Spinal Muscular Atrophy, empower our community, and create a foundation stone upon which cures for all childhood genetic diseases can be built. The Foundation is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information about The Hope and Light Foundation, visit [www.hopeandlight.org](http://www.hopeandlight.org)

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