



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, as many as 15 million Americans have food allergies; nearly 6 million are children under the age of 18; and

*WHEREAS*, research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children; and

*WHEREAS*, eight foods cause the majority of all food allergy reactions in the United States: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy and wheat. Symptoms of a food-allergic reaction can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress and swelling of the throat; and

*WHEREAS*, food allergy results in more than 200,000 Emergency Department visits each year. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic; and

*WHEREAS*, the number of food allergy reactions requiring emergency treatment is up sharply over the past decade, with a 377 percent rise in medical procedures associated with anaphylaxis caused by food; and

*WHEREAS*, there is no cure for food allergy, and scientists do not understand why. Strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction; and

*WHEREAS*, anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and

*WHEREAS*, Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and the health of individuals with food allergies, and to provide them hope through the promise of new treatments;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 13-19, 2018, as

# Food Allergy Awareness Week

in the State of Alabama and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of food allergies and anaphylaxis.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor