

**WHEREAS,** infant mortality refers to the death of a baby under one year of age; and

**WHEREAS,** birth defects, premature birth and low birth weight are among the leading causes of infant mortality; and

**WHEREAS,** quality health care before, during and after pregnancy, along with avoidance of known risk factors, can help reduce the incidence of infant mortality; and

**WHEREAS,** working together to provide and improve quality health care for pregnant women and their families can help reduce the risk of infant death as well as racial disparities in birth outcomes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2009 as

## **INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to help raise awareness of infant mortality and its contributing factors.