

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** South Carolina is steadfast in its commitment to promote the safety and well-being of our children, including providing a loving, stable, home for all youth in which they can be nurtured, succeed, and thrive; and
- WHEREAS,** relationships with family are crucial for children, and it is our responsibility to promote and preserve kinship, sibling, and other familial connections for children, helping them retain their cultural heritage, family, and community ties while preserving their safety and protecting them from abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 57,000 children throughout our state are raised in grandparent-headed households and other kinship families where no parent is present, including being cared for by aunts, uncles, other extended-family members and relatives, close family friends, or fictive kin, such as godparents or other non-related adults; and
- WHEREAS,** kinship caregivers have stepped forward out of love and loyalty, taking on primary responsibility for the care of these children and providing them connection, security, positive identity, belonging, and higher levels of permanency; and
- WHEREAS,** kinship families residing across all of South Carolina often face daunting challenges; therefore partnerships among the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice, child welfare, medical and other systems are important to ensure access to services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their lives; and
- WHEREAS,** Kinship Care Month helps increase awareness and understanding of the positive family environment that kinship families offer many children in the Palmetto State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2017 as

KINSHIP CARE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor kinship caregivers and lift up the accomplishments of countless youth across our state who, with the support of kinship caregivers, have successfully navigated trauma and parental separation.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA