

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is the fastest growing cancer diagnosis in the United States, increasing more than 400% in the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is one of the deadliest cancers because it is usually not detected until it has reached advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of esophageal cancer in the United States is persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many patients are often unaware that their cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, or chest pain can be signs of GERD and reason to discuss screening for esophageal cancer with their medical care professional; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection of Barrett's Esophagus, a precancerous condition which develops from GERD and can lead to a 125-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness and improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies of esophageal cancer are critical to achieving positive patient outcomes and enhancing the health and well-being of all South Carolinians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2012 as

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to increase awareness of esophageal cancer, its symptoms, and the importance of early detection and treatment of this disease.



Handwritten signature of Nikki R. Haley in black ink.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA