

# *State of South Carolina*

## *Proclamation*

### *by*

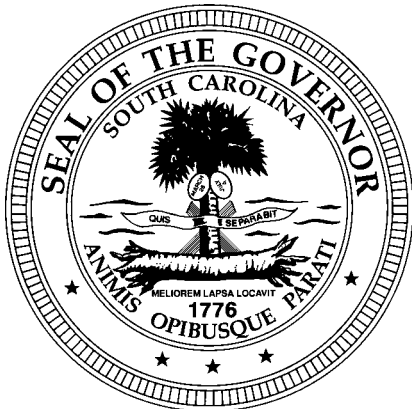
### *Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** suicide is one of the leading causes of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the United States, claiming over 5,000 lives a year; and
- WHEREAS,** youth suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and community can experience; and
- WHEREAS,** community-based prevention efforts that focus on raising awareness of the warning signs of youth suicide and work to erase the stigma associated with seeking help provide effective means for reducing the number of lives lost; and
- WHEREAS,** during the 2002 observance of "Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week", citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation are encouraged to wear a yellow ribbon to raise awareness of the prevention of youth suicide.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby** proclaim September 15 – 21, 2002, as

## **YELLOW RIBBON YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to reduce the incidence of youth suicide and to support the efforts of suicide prevention groups, crisis centers, schools, churches, youth centers, hospitals, counselors, teachers, and parents to prevent these tragedies among the young people of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Hodges".

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**