

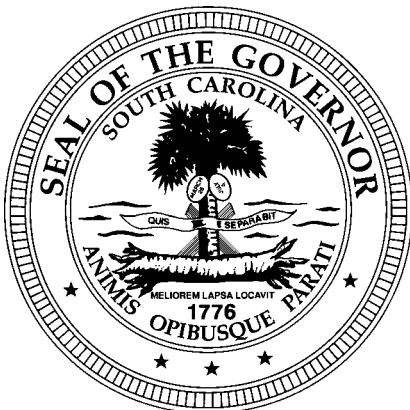
State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** domestic violence is one of the most under-reported and pervasive crimes in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** in addition to physical injury to victims, domestic violence results in a loss to businesses of an estimated \$100 million annually in lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity, and an estimated \$3-5 billion each year in medical expenses; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina is ranked first in the nation for Caucasian women and eighth for African-American women in the rate of murder by intimate partners; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, children living in homes plagued by domestic violence are often victims of violence themselves; and
- WHEREAS,** many times these children and their mothers are forced to seek refuge in domestic violence shelters where they can escape violence and plan for the future in a safe and secure setting; and
- WHEREAS,** "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of the Palmetto State to join together to raise public awareness of the serious problem of domestic violence to keep our homes and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to prevent domestic violence to help assure a life free from harm for all South Carolinians.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina