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**Subject:** March into Literacy Month - Proclamation

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Draft proclamation for Wednesday. If you're OK, please send on to Wade Hampton for them to set it up. Thanks.

CLS

WHEREAS, reading is a gateway to greater knowledge and understanding of the world around us; and

WHEREAS, a student's reading proficiency in third grade is a significant predictor of later performance, including the likelihood that he or she will graduate from high school on time; and

WHEREAS, for South Carolina's children to realize their dreams and potential, their parents and teachers must help them become proficient readers at an early age; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, the U.S. Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs, and countless other philanthropic and community-based organizations help children "March into Literacy" each year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2014 as

MARCH INTO LITERACY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join in the celebration by sharing the joy of reading with their children and communities.

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