

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow obstruction and breathing related problems, including emphysema, chronic bronchitis and, in some cases, asthma; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, chronic lower respiratory diseases, primarily COPD, was the third leading cause of death nationally and the fourth in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, more than 12 million people in the United States, including 7.5 percent of South Carolina adults, have been diagnosed with some form of COPD, and it is estimated that another 12 million people with forms of the disease are undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause of disability nationwide, COPD hospitalization cost more than \$300.6 million in South Carolina in 2012 not including other costs such as lost wages or productivity; and

WHEREAS, awareness, early detection, and treatment are crucial to reducing the incidence and slowing the spread of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2013 as

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about this disease and the importance of respiratory health to the well-being of our citizens.



NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA