

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

**WHEREAS,** a vulnerable adult is a person who is either unlikely or unable to report personal maltreatment due to a physical or mental condition which substantially impairs that person from adequately providing for his or her own care or protection; and

**WHEREAS,** tragically, vulnerable adults are often abused, neglected, and exploited, infringing on their right to be treated with dignity and respect; and

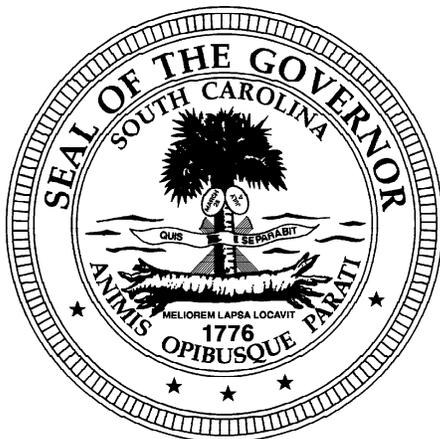
**WHEREAS,** the Omnibus Adult Protection Act allows for the investigation and prosecution of caregivers who are charged with the maltreatment of vulnerable adults; and

**WHEREAS,** the Adult Protection Coordinating Council, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the South Carolina Department of Social Services are committed to working together to prevent the maltreatment of vulnerable adults and to assure a life free from harm for all South Carolinians.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February, 2001, as

**VULNERABLE ADULT AWARENESS  
MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the dignity of vulnerable adults throughout the Palmetto State and to work together to prevent their maltreatment and to ensure their right to be treated with respect.



*Jim Hodges*

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