

WHEREAS, obesity is a complex condition, influenced by behavioral, environmental and biological factors, that increases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, some forms of cancer, and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, approximately sixty-five percent of the adults in the Palmetto State are overweight or obese, and over a quarter of our high school students and low-income children ages 2 - 5 are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight; and

WHEREAS, obesity places a large economic burden on our state, with expenses over one billion dollars each year, nearly half of which were paid by taxpayers through Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, wide-scale, population-based efforts to promote proper eating habits, physical activity, and other healthy behaviors have a significant impact on obesity, improving the quality of life of the residents of the Palmetto State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as

OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join in obesity prevention efforts where they live, work, and play and to make healthier decisions in their day-to-day lives.