

**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.