

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, a rare disease is a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 7,000 such diseases in the United States affecting a total of nearly 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, because many rare diseases are genetic, it is estimated that half of the people affected by rare diseases in the United States are children; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases can experience a sense of isolation and hopelessness due to difficulties in obtaining timely, accurate diagnoses and problems in finding and receiving effective medical care; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of the Palmetto State, including patients, friends and family, caregivers, medical professionals, social workers, and researchers seeking to develop safe, effective treatments, are impacted by rare diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2010, as

RARE DISEASE DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the need for research into the causes and cures for the many rare diseases affecting fellow residents of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA