

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

**WHEREAS,** acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or AIDS was first reported in the United States in 1981 and has since become a major worldwide epidemic; and

**WHEREAS,** AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, which progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers by killing or damaging cells of the body's immune system; and

**WHEREAS,** the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS estimates that 34.3 million people worldwide are currently living with HIV/AIDS, with young people under the age of 25 accounting for more than half of all new infections; and

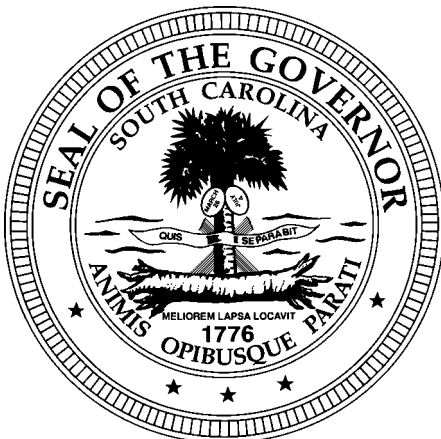
**WHEREAS,** as of 2000, South Carolina ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the rate of newly diagnosed cases of AIDS; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2001 observance of "World AIDS Day" provides an opportunity for citizens to demonstrate their concern and commitment to addressing the threat that AIDS poses to the well-being of the citizens of the Palmetto State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2001, as

**SOUTH CAROLINA AIDS DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about HIV and AIDS and to work together to raise awareness of the threat, treatment, and prevention of AIDS among the citizens of the Palmetto State.



*Jim Hodges*

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