

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is one that starts and grows in the squamous or the gland cells in the esophagus; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly 17,000 new cases of esophageal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year, and approximately 15,600 people will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, while the exact cause of esophageal cancer is unknown, there are certain risk factors, including frequent symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) which can lead to the formation of abnormal cells that characterize Barrett's esophagus; and

WHEREAS, not all esophageal cancers can be prevented, but healthy lifestyle choices and the early detection and treatment of Barrett's esophagus can help reduce the risk of developing this disease; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness and improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies of esophageal cancer are critical to achieving positive patient outcomes and enhancing the health and well-being of all South Carolinians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to increase awareness of esophageal cancer, its symptoms, and the importance of early detection and treatment of this disease.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA