

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, health literacy is the ability to access, understand, and act on health information; and

WHEREAS, education, language, culture, access to resources, and age are all factors that affect a person's health literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, people with limited health literacy are more likely to skip preventative services and have higher rates of hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, with the theme, "Health Literacy: Gateway to Improving the Public's Health," Health Education Week 2011 calls attention to the importance of increasing health literacy in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, health education specialists utilize multiple intervention strategies to increase health literacy and initiate educational, policy, and environmental changes that are necessary to support healthy behaviors; and

WHEREAS, health education specialists are employed in a variety of roles in public and private settings and are focused on promoting, maintaining, and improving the quality of life for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 16 - 22, 2011, as

HEALTH EDUCATION WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize Health Education Specialists for their commitment to increasing health literacy and providing patients with the information necessary to access the care needed to treat and prevent illness.



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

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA