

# *State of South Carolina*

## *Proclamation*

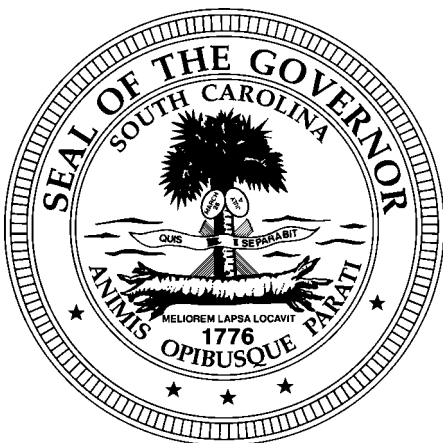
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** more than 500,000 South Carolina citizens and their families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities without distinction as to race, culture, age, sex, or economic class; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and local disabilities and special needs boards throughout the Palmetto State serve people with autism, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, mental retardation and related disabilities, providing support services and promoting economic self-sufficiency and independence; and
- WHEREAS,** these agencies give people with severe lifelong disabilities a voice at the highest levels of government; and
- WHEREAS,** people with lifelong disabilities live, work, play, and worship in our communities and are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members deserving of respect and opportunities for personal growth; and
- WHEREAS,** with the theme "Together We're Winning—South Carolinians With and Without disABILITIES", the 2002 observance of "Disabilities Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout the Palmetto State to join the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in raising awareness of disability issues and promoting increased opportunities for people with disabilities and special needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as

## **DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by people with disabilities in communities throughout the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Hodges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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