

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism can be an incapacitating, lifelong neurological disorder resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder, affecting an estimated 1 in every 68 children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, although the exact cause for autism has not been found, accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention can help persons with autism spectrum disorder reach their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, support groups throughout South Carolina and the nation are advocates for the rights, community inclusion, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month educates families, professionals, and the general public to better understand the lifelong effects of this disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

and April 2, 2016, as

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.



Handwritten signature of Nikki R. Haley in black ink.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA