

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** preventing diseases before they start is critical to helping people live longer, healthier lives while managing health-related costs; and

**WHEREAS,** seven out of ten deaths in the United States are related to preventable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer; and

**WHEREAS,** nearly one-third of all students in the United States do not graduate from high school on time and face the possibility of lifelong health risks and high medical costs as a result of a greater likelihood to engage in risky health behaviors, unemployment, low income, and lack of insurance; and

**WHEREAS,** food-borne contaminants cause an average of 5,000 deaths, 325 hospitalizations, 76 million illnesses, and billions of dollars in medical costs and lost productivity each year; and

**WHEREAS,** this year's theme, Public Health: Start Here, calls attention to critical role of strong public health systems in sustaining and improving community health and serves as a reminder of the importance of adopting preventive lifestyle habits for a healthy life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to take preventive measures to live longer and healthier lives and to help raise awareness about the importance of prevention and wellness throughout our communities and state.



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

**NIKKI R. HALEY**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**