

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML), also known as Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalitis, is a rare and usually fatal viral disease characterized by the destruction of cells that produce Myelin, an oily substance that helps protect nerve cells, causing progressive damage or inflammation of the white matter of the brain and spinal cord at multiple locations; and
- WHEREAS,** symptoms of PML include weakness or paralysis, vision loss, impaired speech, and cognitive deterioration; and
- WHEREAS,** PML is caused by the JC Virus which is normally present in 85 to 90 percent of the world's population and kept under control by a healthy immune system; and
- WHEREAS,** PML occurs almost exclusively in people with severe immune deficiency, such as organ transplant patients on immunosuppressive medications, patients receiving certain types of chemotherapy, patients receiving certain medications for Multiple Sclerosis or Psoriasis, or patients who have HIV/AIDS; and
- WHEREAS,** greater public awareness and education with regard to Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy are critical to improving the quality of life for people with or affected by PML.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2013, as

PROGRESSIVE MULTIFOCAL LEUKOENCEPHALAPATHY AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about PML and work together to increase awareness of this rare viral disease.



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

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA