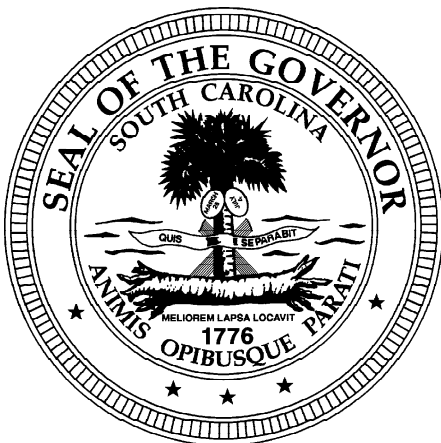


*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** every 15 minutes 9 seconds, a violent crime is committed in South Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** victims and survivors of these crimes often face financial loss, in addition to physical injury and emotional trauma; and
- WHEREAS,** we all have an obligation to our citizens to promote justice and keep our communities safe, including a responsibility to provide comfort and assistance to the victims of crime; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network and the State Office of Victim Assistance are dedicated to working together to educate citizens about crime and victimization and to encourage support for improving victims' rights and services; and
- WHEREAS,** the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual South Carolina Victims' Rights Week Conference will help ensure that South Carolina's crime victims receive top quality services at all levels of our criminal justice system by providing workshops which are designed to help victim advocates engage in effective outreach, communication and advocacy; and
- WHEREAS,** we can make our communities safer by working together, while sending a message to criminals that their misdeeds will not go unpunished.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby** proclaim April 17 – 20, 2001, as the

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK  
OBSERVANCE**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join together in remembering our victims of crime, in celebrating criminal justice reforms, and in envisioning a future free from violence.



*Jim Hodges*

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