

State of South Carolina

Proclamation

by

Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** adolescent pregnancies have far-reaching consequences that adversely affect the health, education, and economic future of our young people; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and birth in the industrialized world; and
- WHEREAS,** an estimated 10,732 teens in South Carolina became pregnant in 2000, making the Palmetto State's teen birth rate 8th in the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** adolescent mothers are often unable to complete their education, resulting in increased unemployment, underemployment, and dependence on public welfare; and
- WHEREAS,** comprehensive approaches to education and community-based prevention programs help reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy works with teen pregnancy prevention initiatives and programs in every county in South Carolina, state government, and other organizations to develop and provide comprehensive community-based approaches to reduce teen pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS,** the goal of these community-based activities are to reduce the number of teen pregnancies in South Carolina, thus giving our young women and men the opportunity to complete their education and fulfill their potential as individuals and as contributing members of the South Carolina community.

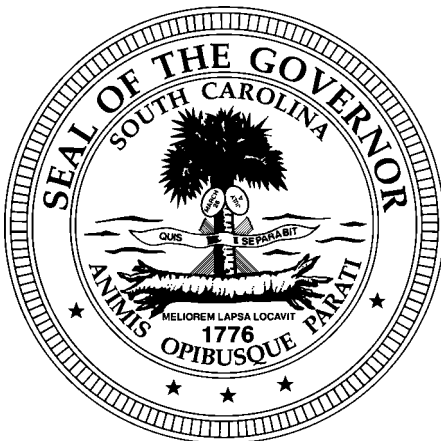
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim
May, 2002, as

TEEN PREGNANCY AWARENESS MONTH

and May 8, 2002, as the

SOUTH CAROLINA DAY TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to reduce and prevent adolescent pregnancy throughout the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina