

State of South Carolina Proclamation

by
Governor Jim Hodges

WHEREAS, scleroderma is a chronic, autoimmune disease of the connective tissue affecting an estimated 300,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, scleroderma is characterized by discolored patchy skin, swelling, joint and muscle pain, shortness of breath, swallowing difficulties, and potentially life-threatening attacks to internal organs, including the esophagus, heart, lungs, kidneys, and skin; and

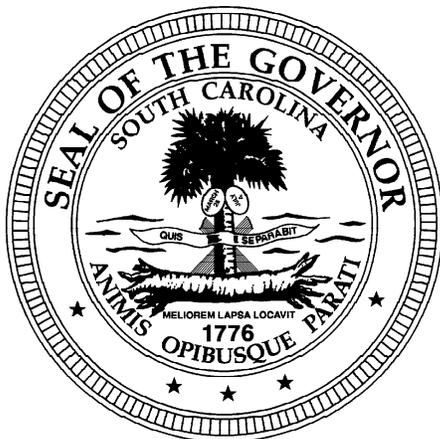
WHEREAS, the exact cause of and cure for scleroderma remain unknown, though effective treatments can provide symptomatic relief for those suffering from this devastating disease; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 observance of "Scleroderma Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation to raise awareness of the symptoms and treatment of this disease, while working together to promote continued research into its cause and cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June, 2001, as

SCLERODERMA AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor the courage of our citizens affected by scleroderma.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina