



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people of the Palmetto State, I am pleased to welcome you to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "March on Ballot Boxes" speech. I would also like to thank the members of the Planning Committee, sponsors, and volunteers who have given so generously of their time, talents, and resources to make this event possible.

It was a great day in South Carolina when, on May 8, 1966, people gathered in Kingstree to hear the powerful speech delivered by one of history's greatest civil rights leaders. In his peaceful, patient, and persuasive manner, Dr. King shared his message on the importance of voting as a right and responsibility. Today is another great day in South Carolina as a new generation gathers to witness a re-enactment of that Mother's Day speech from five decades ago. It is a timely reminder of our fundamental duty as Americans to exercise our right to vote and, in so doing, be a positive force for change by using the power of our voices to advocate for our community, state, and nation.

Michael and I wish you all the best for an inspiring event and, to the mothers in attendance, a happy Mother's Day. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/kt