

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 the young people of the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, young men who become fathers before the age of 18 are less likely to graduate from high school, limiting life chances for both themselves and their children; and

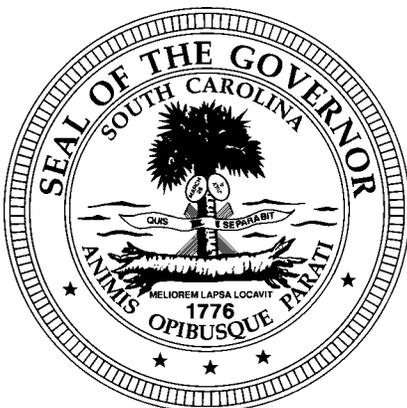
WHEREAS, since 1980, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation have been working together through Project Alpha to promote safe sex and abstinence among young men; and

WHEREAS, during the 2002 observance of "Project Alpha Week", Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation will sponsor events in schools and communities throughout South Carolina and the nation designed to raise awareness of adolescent pregnancy and fatherhood and to teach young people how to protect themselves and their partners from unwanted pregnancies and sexually-transmitted diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 5 - 13, 2002, as

PROJECT ALPHA WEEK

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