

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, vitiligo is a noncontagious skin disorder characterized by white patches and a loss of pigment cells from the involved areas that affects an estimated 1 to 2 million people in our country; and

WHEREAS, while there is no definitive cause of vitiligo, doctors and scientists have several theories about its origins including heredity, a disorder of the autoimmune system, or a result of a single event such as a sunburn, physical trauma, or emotional distress; and

WHEREAS, most people with vitiligo are otherwise healthy with normal skin texture and sensation, yet the condition may be more common in individuals affected by Addison's disease, pernicious anemia, diabetes mellitus, thyroid disorders, or certain other autoimmune diseases; and

WHEREAS, vitiligo can cause emotional suffering as well as health complications including the vulnerability of discolored skin to certain forms of skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness and understanding of this disorder can help promote research to develop better therapies and preventive measures for the individuals it affects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

VITILIGO AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to support further research into the causes of and a cure for this disorder.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley", written in a cursive style.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA