

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability that results in the significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States, affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not been found, accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention can help persons with autism spectrum disorder reach their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, support groups throughout South Carolina, across the nation, and around the world advocate for the rights and appropriate education of all persons with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, the fifth annual observance of World Autism Awareness Day educates families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2012, as

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to help ensure that individuals with autism spectrum disorder are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA