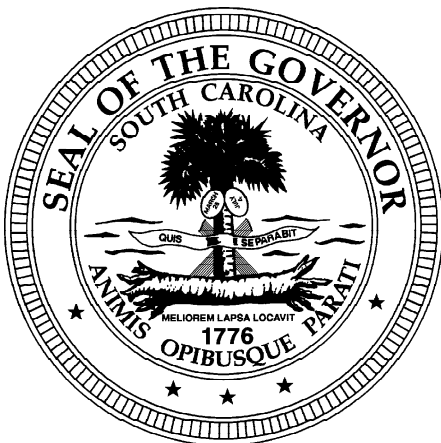


*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** a woman's health reflects both her individual biology and her sociocultural, economic, and physical environments, which affect both the duration and quality of her life; and
- WHEREAS,** incorporating simple preventative and positive health behaviors into everyday life, women can reduce their chances of disease and improve their overall well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** though the prominent health issues facing women vary from one ethnic group to the next, presenting different and competing risks, the greatest opportunity for reducing health disparities is to provide all people with the skills, education, and care they need to make informed health decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina is ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation for overall women's health; and
- WHEREAS,** women throughout the Palmetto State are threatened by a higher prevalence of disability than South Carolina men; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately one-fourth of all South Carolina women over age 65 are poor, causing many women to choose between food, heat, medical care, and medicines; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2001 observance of "Women's Health Month" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout the Palmetto State to work together to raise awareness of manageable steps women can take to improve their health.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2001, as

**WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate women taking responsibility for their own health through greater knowledge and understanding.



*Jim Hodges*

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**