

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month is an inclusive initiative addressing health needs of African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and other minorities with the aim of strengthening the capacities of local communities to eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness in minority populations through prevention, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Minority Health is to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations in South Carolina through the development of health policies and programs that promote health equity for all; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's four major racial and ethnic minority populations account for approximately 37 percent of the state's population, and

WHEREAS, since 2001, April has been observed across the country as National Minority Health Month; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 observance of Minority Health Month provides an opportunity to build partnerships and share information and knowledge in an effort to eliminate health disparities and increase health equity for all minorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as

MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

Throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to incorporate healthy lifestyle choices into their daily lives while working together to provide culturally appropriate health services to minorities.