

# *State of South Carolina*

## *Proclamation*

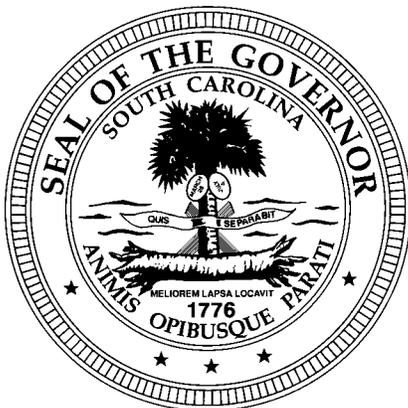
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** each year, motor vehicle crashes claim the lives of nearly 1,800 child passengers and result in more than 274,000 child passenger injuries; and
- WHEREAS,** despite ongoing efforts to better protect child passengers in cars, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and under; and
- WHEREAS,** despite child occupant protection laws, approximately thirty percent of the children in the United States continue to ride completely unrestrained and of those who are buckled up, four out of five are improperly secured; and
- WHEREAS,** when used correctly and consistently, child safety seats and safety belts help prevent injuries and save children's lives; and
- WHEREAS,** the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and its 400 coalitions are working together to "close the gaps" in child occupant protection laws to help ensure that all children are properly protected while traveling in motor vehicles; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of the 2003 observance of "Child Passenger Safety Week", the South Carolina SAFE KIDS Coalition, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, and the South Carolina Department of Insurance will sponsor community-based child passenger safety events and activities throughout the Palmetto State in an effort to educate families about child occupant protection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 9 – 15, 2003, as

## **CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to support the efforts of the South Carolina SAFE KIDS Coalition to prevent childhood motor vehicle injuries and deaths.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

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