

# *State of South Carolina*

## *Proclamation*

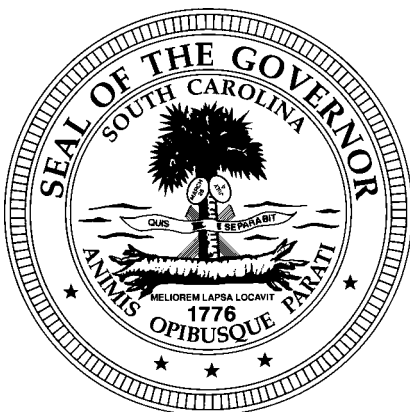
*by*

### *Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** domestic violence is one of the most under-reported and pervasive crimes in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** consequences of domestic violence include physical injuries to victims, costs of medical treatment, lost time from work and shelter costs; and
- WHEREAS,** domestic violence results in a loss to businesses of an estimated \$3-5 billion annually in absenteeism, lower productivity, employee turnover and health and safety costs; and
- WHEREAS,** in the last decade, South Carolina has ranked from number one to number five in this deadly statistic; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, children living in homes plagued by domestic violence are often victims of violence themselves; and
- WHEREAS,** many times these children and their mothers are forced to seek refuge in domestic violence shelters where they can escape violence and plan for the future in a safe and secure setting; and
- WHEREAS,** "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of the Palmetto State to join together to raise public awareness of the serious problem of domestic violence to keep our homes and communities safe.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to prevent domestic violence to help assure a life free from harm for all South Carolinians.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Hodges".

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