

WHEREAS, established to increase school readiness, Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs that serve young children to the age of five from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, Head Start programs provide a wide range of services in the areas of early childhood development, education, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, and parent involvement in order to address individual needs; and

WHEREAS, Head Start has developed its services to be appropriate and responsive to the developmental, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience of each child and family; and

WHEREAS, in the Palmetto State, more than 12,000 children are receiving services from Regular, Early, Migrant, and Native American Head Start programs; and

WHEREAS, Head Start has a 44 year history of delivering quality services that contribute to the healthy development of vulnerable children across our state and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as

HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

and October 22, 2009, as

HEAD START AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive contributions of this quality program that provides young children with a real head start in life.