

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** half of the people with hearing loss are below the age of 65, and over one billion teenagers are at risk for hearing loss due primarily to unsafe use of portable music devices; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately 6 of every 1,000 babies have a significant hearing problem at birth, and more than 4,000 babies are born with hearing loss each year, jeopardizing their development of normal speech and language; and
- WHEREAS,** noise-induced hearing loss can be caused by everyday activities, including the use of farm and lawn equipment, hair dryers, blenders, and alarm clocks, as well as attending loud entertainment events such as concerts, sporting events, fireworks shows, and nightlife venues; and
- WHEREAS,** untreated hearing loss can significantly impact everyday life by causing feelings of loneliness, isolation, and frustration; and
- WHEREAS,** left untreated, dizziness and balance disorders that arise from problems in the inner ear can increase the risk of falls that result in fractures, head trauma, or even death; and
- WHEREAS,** audiologists are healthcare professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance disorders in newborns, children, and adults, prescribing and fitting hearing aids, assisting in cochlear implant programs, providing hearing rehabilitation, and treating almost all types of hearing loss.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2016 as**

### AUDIOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the important role audiologists play in maintaining good hearing and helping ensure the well-being of their patients



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

**NIKKI R. HALEY**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**