

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is the second most common developmental disability, affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans and more than 41,400 individuals in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not been found, accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention can help persons with autism spectrum disorder reach their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, support groups throughout South Carolina and the nation are advocates for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month educates families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2011 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism spectrum disorder are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.



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

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA