

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights established a system of government designed to provide for the common defense while securing the fundamental rights and freedoms we cherish as Americans; and

**WHEREAS,** in response to the passage by Congress of the Highway Safety Act of 1966, the Secretary of Transportation issued a standard the following year that required states to adopt laws mandating the use of helmets by all motorcyclists or lose a portion of federal-aid highway construction funds; and

**WHEREAS,** while a universal helmet law was enacted in the Palmetto State in 1967, South Carolinians concerned by the loss of their freedom of choice focused their collective efforts on changing the law; and

**WHEREAS,** through the combined determination and perseverance of members of ABATE and the motorcycling community, South Carolina's universal mandatory helmet law was amended in 1980, restoring freedom of choice to bikers who have attained the age of twenty-one.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 12, 2016, as

### SOUTH CAROLINA HELMET LAW 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the men and women of ABATE who, through their shared commitment to preserving the liberties we cherish as Americans, helped restore this right of freedom of choice.



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

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