

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated that more than 50 percent of Americans suffer some degree of gum disease, although less than half are aware of it; and

**WHEREAS,** if left untreated, gum disease can result in tooth loss due to severe damage to the soft tissue and bone that support the teeth; and

**WHEREAS,** some recent studies have indicated gum disease may also be linked to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, some cancers, and even low birth weight babies; and

**WHEREAS,** Gum Disease Awareness Month helps raise awareness of gum disease, including its causes, symptoms, and treatment options, and disseminate information, tips, and tools to empower citizens to make lifelong improvements in their health and overall quality of life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2013 as**

### **GUM DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to take an active role in preventing and treating gum disease.



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

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