

State of South Carolina

Proclamation

by

Governor Jim Hodges

WHEREAS, autism 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 is the third most common developmental disability in the nation, affecting an estimated 500,000 individuals across the country and approximately 8,024 individuals in the Palmetto State; and

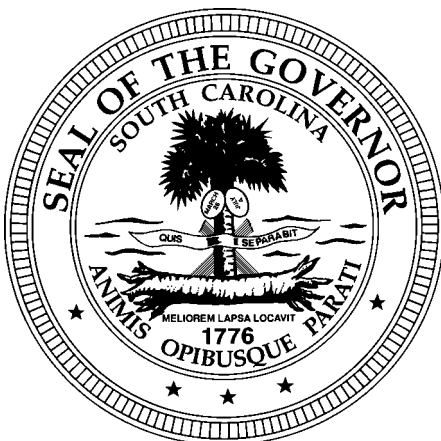
WHEREAS, although no cure for autism currently exists, accurate, early diagnosis, coupled with appropriate education and intervention, helps individuals with autism reach their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 observance of "Autism Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation to join together to promote public awareness of the symptoms and treatment of autism, while working to ensure that individuals with autism are treated with dignity and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact of early diagnosis and appropriate treatment on the quality of life of citizens with autism and their families.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina