

*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

**WHEREAS,** African Americans throughout South Carolina and the nation boast a long and proud tradition of literacy excellence; and

**WHEREAS,** founded in 1990 by the NCTE Black Caucus and the National Council of Teachers of English with the endorsement of the International Reading Association, the African American Read-In Chain stands as one of the longest running, publicly supported literacy campaigns in the nation, with persons receiving Read-In packets sharing the information with others, thereby creating a “chain” of readers whose numbers have grown to well over a million; and

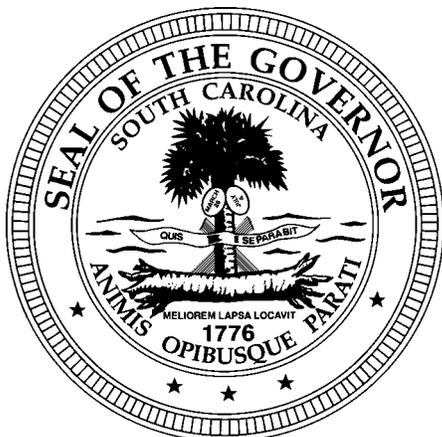
**WHEREAS,** the African American Read-In Chain is designed to bring public notice to the importance of reading and to African American writers’ contributions to the American literacy tradition; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2002 observance of “African American Read-In Chain Days” provides a unique opportunity for schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations, and interested citizens throughout the Palmetto State to make literacy a significant part of African American History Month by hosting and coordinating Read-Ins in their communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 3 – 4, 2002, as**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN CHAIN DAYS**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by African Americans and African American writers to the American literacy tradition.



*Jim Hodges*

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**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**