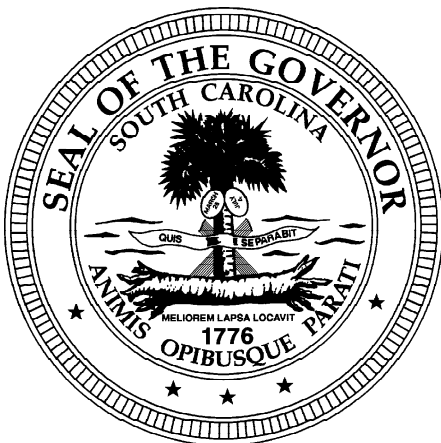


State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** according to the American Medical Association, sexual assault is one of the most serious and fastest growing violent crimes in America, with over 700,000 women raped or sexually assaulted annually; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately 1 in every 4 women and 1 in every 8 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS,** in South Carolina, there were 1,670 reported forcible rapes in 1999, 76.8% of which were committed by family members or acquaintances; and
- WHEREAS,** in addition to physical injury, sexual assault results in a loss of self-esteem that often prevents victims from recognizing themselves as valuable people who do not deserve to be abused; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is a statewide, non-profit organization committed to providing communities and individuals with information and referrals, technical assistance, education, legislative action, and training in the prevention and treatment of sexual assault; and
- WHEREAS,** the citizens of the Palmetto State have a right to be safe from a sexual violation at any time, in any place, and under any circumstances, with the offender, not the survivor, being held responsible for this crime.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby** proclaim April, 2001, as

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to prevent sexual assault and ensure a life free from harm for all South Carolinians.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina