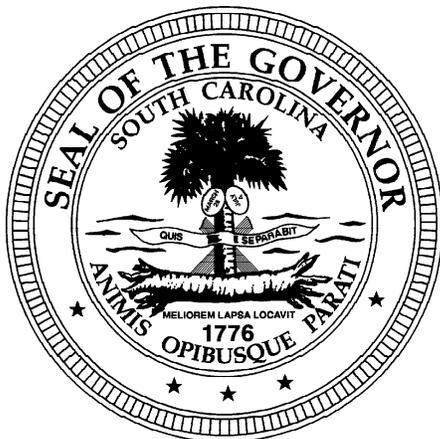


State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- 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