

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is among the fastest growing cancer diagnoses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is one of the deadliest cancers because it is usually not detected until it has reached advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of esophageal cancer in the United States is persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many patients are often unaware that their cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, or chest pain can be signs of GERD and reason to discuss screening for esophageal cancer with their medical care professional; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can be prevented through early detection and treatment of Barrett's Esophagus, a precancerous condition which develops from GERD and can lead to an increased risk in the development of esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness and improvements in prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies of esophageal cancer are critical to achieving positive patient outcomes and enhancing the health and well-being of all South Carolinians.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to increase awareness of esophageal cancer, its symptoms, and the importance of early detection and treatment of this disease.



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

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

and promote progress in treatment so other families won't have to go through the loss we have known.

I've attached last year's proclamation that may be helpful in creating this year's Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month proclamation for the state of South Carolina.

I hope we can count on your support. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you to help keep the citizens of South Carolina alive and well!

Sincerely,

Paul D. Adams
123 Carriage Lane
McCormick, South Carolina

864-391-5970

Email: pauladams@wctel.net

Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

February 14, 2015

Paul D. Adams
123 Carriage Lane
McCormick, South Carolina

Subject: Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month – April 2015

Dear Governor Haley:

For the last three years you have been kind enough to declare the month of April as Esophageal Cancer Awareness month in South Carolina

I am writing you, once again, this year because there is a silent killer that's continues attacking too many of your citizens at this very moment. It's a disease that's caused tremendous pain to me.

Four years ago, I was diagnosed with Stage II Esophageal Cancer. As a result I endured major life changing surgery, five months of chemotherapy, and ongoing disability. I was diagnosed after years of treating persistent heartburn and acid reflux with over the counter antacids.

At the time I was diagnosed, **we had no idea that Esophageal Cancer was one of the fastest increasing cancer diagnosis in the U.S. – up more than 400 percent in the past 20 years. We didn't know it could be caused by persistent heartburn or reflux disease.**

But all too soon we found out these and many other, alarming facts. Like the fact that Esophageal Cancer has one of the worst survival rates of any cancer – **more than 80 percent who are diagnosed will lose their battle with this devastating disease.** And a big part of the reason for these dismal statistics is the **lack of awareness about Esophageal Cancer.** Yet, **when it's detected early, new procedures have been shown to have a 98 percent cure rate.** That makes awareness so important!

That is why I am calling on you to once again proclaim April 2014 Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month in our state. By raising the awareness of our citizens about this deadly disease, you can help us make sure other families don't suffer the pain we have known.

This disease has taken a toll on many families in communities throughout our state. I hope that by writing to you, we can make a difference. I am certain that making the facts about Esophageal Cancer more available to the public can save lives. We're hopeful that, with your support, we can improve awareness, increase early detection