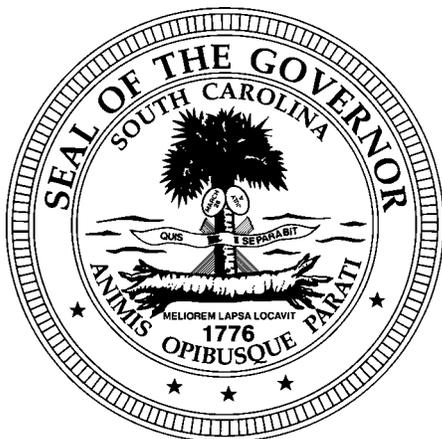


State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** domestic violence is one of the most under-reported and rapidly increasing crimes in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** in addition to physical injury, domestic violence 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,** South Carolina is ranked first in the nation for deaths of women as a result of domestic violence; and
- WHEREAS,** children living in homes plagued by domestic violence often spend the night in victims shelters; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, these children are often victims of violence themselves, as child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present; and
- WHEREAS,** domestic violence shelters throughout South Carolina offer battered women and their children a safe place to stay and a non-judgmental atmosphere in which they can escape violence and plan for the future; and
- WHEREAS,** "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of the Palmetto State to join together to raise public awareness of the problem of domestic violence to keep our homes and communities safe.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2001, as**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to prevent domestic violence to help assure a life free from harm for all South Carolinians.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina