

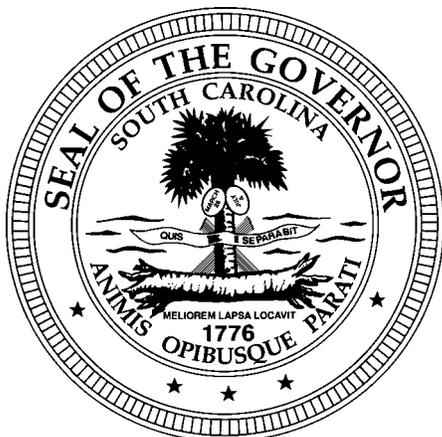
*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** sexual assault is one of the most serious and fastest growing violent crimes in America; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, forcible rapes are often 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 2002 observance of "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" recognizes the importance of providing communities and individuals throughout South Carolina 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 2002 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**