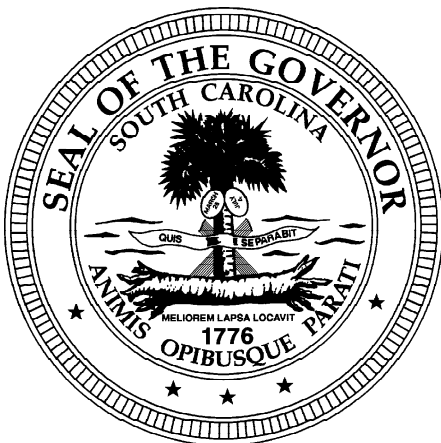


*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and local disabilities and special needs boards throughout the Palmetto State serve people with autism, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, mental retardation and related disabilities, providing support services and promoting economic self-sufficiency and independence; and
- WHEREAS,** these agencies give people with severe lifelong disabilities a voice at the highest levels of government; and
- WHEREAS,** people with lifelong disabilities live, work, play, and worship in our communities and are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members deserving of respect and opportunities for personal growth; and
- WHEREAS,** in March, 2001, citizens with disabilities and special needs throughout the Palmetto State, along with their families and advocates, will join the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in celebrating "People with DisABILITIES/Helping SC Business Grow".
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2001, as

**DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by people with disabilities in communities throughout the Palmetto State and to work together to raise awareness of disability issues and to promote increased opportunities for people with disabilities.



*Jim Hodges*

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