WHEREAS, charter schools are independent public schools, designed and operated by educators, parents, and community leaders and sponsored by designated local or state educational organizations that monitor their quality, progress and operations; and

WHEREAS, charter schools throughout the Palmetto State are dedicated to providing high-quality educational opportunities for our students; and

WHEREAS, charter schools encourage community and parental involvement in the education of our children, while offering parents, teachers, and communities increased choice and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 observance of “National Charter Schools Week” calls attention to the accomplishments and contributions of charter schools to public education in South Carolina and across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 28 – May 2, 2003, as

CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact of charter schools on education in the Palmetto State.