WHEREAS, the YWCA has a long and proud history of empowering women and families, fostering racial justice, and preventing violence; and

WHEREAS, through 324 local member associations with programs in thousands of communities across the nation, the YWCA provides a wide range of programs and services, including battered women’s shelters, counseling, childcare, support for victims of rape and sexual assault, job training, sports and fitness, and legal advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 observance of YWCA Week Without Violence focuses attention on practical and sustainable alternatives to violence, with programs at YWCA locations, schools, community organizations, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 19–25, 2003, as YWCA WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to create effective alternatives for violence.