Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, more than twenty million people in the United States, including 350,000 South Carolinians, suffer from diabetes, yet approximately one-third of these people are unaware that they have the disease; and

WHEREAS, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, with one in seven African-Americans affected, South Carolina has the 3rd highest rate in the nation and a mortality rate, especially among African-American women, 2 to 3 times that for whites; and

WHEREAS, uncontrolled diabetes can lead to many complications, including blindness, heart disease, kidney failure, stroke, and amputations; and

WHEREAS, with the theme, “Living with Diabetes: You Are Not Alone,” the 10th Annual African-American Conference on Diabetes focuses on standards of care and self-management for controlling this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2006 as

DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to support efforts to raise awareness of diabetes and the benefits of early diagnosis.