WHEREAS, professional social workers open the doors of access and opportunity for those in need through direct services and through assistance in obtaining services such as housing, transportation, meals, health care, and caregiver support; and

WHEREAS, professional social workers use their education, training, and commitment to fix problems that some cannot and that others hope will simply go away; and

WHEREAS, professional social workers are dedicated advocates for changes in policy and legislation to strengthen the safety nets that make a critical difference to so many, working daily to ensure that people of all ages, creeds, sexual orientation, and nationalities have access to adequate resources and services; and

WHEREAS, professional social workers throughout the Palmetto State are on the front lines in our communities every day, making a positive difference in the lives of our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2004 as

PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor professional social workers for their dedication to individuals, families, and communities through legislative advocacy, service delivery, research, and education.