WHEREAS, infection prevention and control professionals are devoted to patient and healthcare worker safety and are committed to reducing the risk and occurrence of healthcare-associated infections; and

WHEREAS, every year, millions of Americans visit their physicians and are admitted to hospitals, with many undergoing medical procedures that have a risk of infectious complications; and

WHEREAS, healthcare-associated infections increase morbidity and mortality and add a significant financial burden to the cost of health care; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, “International Infection Prevention Week: It’s In Your Hands,” calls attention to the hard work done by the thousands of infection and prevention control professionals who work to prevent healthcare-associated infections.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 14–20, 2007, as

INFECTION PREVENTION WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work to raise awareness of the importance of reducing the risk of infections.