

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, more than 500,000 South Carolina residents and families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities, including autism, head injuries, spinal cord injuries, mental retardation and related disabilities, without regard to race, culture, geography, age, sex, or economic class; and

WHEREAS, people with lifelong disabilities are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members, deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, South Carolinians with and without disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together, and grow together; and

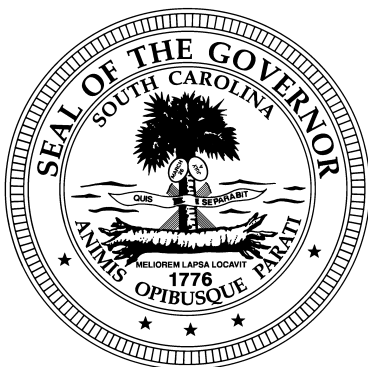
WHEREAS, we owe a special debt of gratitude to the caregivers who selflessly provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to our residents with disabilities and special needs; and

WHEREAS, with the theme, "Freedom from Exclusion: Inclusion Now," the 2004 observance of Disabilities Awareness Month highlights the ways people with disabilities and special needs continue to be excluded from full participation in community life.

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

DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to promote increased opportunities for people with disabilities, to recognize the many contributions made by people with disabilities in our communities, and to honor the dedication of the caregivers who bring hope and comfort to their fellow citizens.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA