WHEREAS, patient advocates serve as a liaison between patients and hospitals to help ensure that patients are satisfied with the care they receive; and

WHEREAS, patient advocates welcome patients to the hospital, provide information about hospital services and procedures, listen to suggestions for hospital improvements, and offer support and reassurance to patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, effective patient advocate programs in health care institutions help ensure that our citizens receive the highest quality health care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 13-19, 2003, as

HEALTH CARE CONSUMER ADVOCACY WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor patient advocates in the Palmetto State for their commitment to the health and well-being of our citizens.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA