WHEREAS, women are more likely to be visually impaired than men and, because they live longer than men, suffer from more age-related eye conditions; and

WHEREAS, cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration, the four leading causes of blindness, are more prevalent in women than men; and

WHEREAS, with symptoms including blurred vision, light sensitivity and a sensation of itchiness or irritation, chronic dry eye is a disease that affects mostly women and, without treatment, can lead to vision loss; and

WHEREAS, healthy lifestyle choices, including physical fitness, a healthy diet, avoidance of tobacco, use of UV eye protection, and dietary supplements can help prevent vision loss.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2011 as

WOMEN’S EYE SAFETY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to help raise awareness of the importance of regular eye examinations for continued good vision.