

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** alcohol abuse and addiction are public health issues with serious consequences for all South Carolinians, including increased costs to the healthcare, welfare, and criminal justice systems as well as to the business community; and

**WHEREAS,** alcohol use by young people, a critical problem for our state, is a major cause of loss of life for people under 21, and alcohol-related car crashes are the leading cause of those deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** from 2007 to 2014, 3,694 drivers under 21, an average of about 480 drivers per year, were involved in alcohol-related traffic crashes in South Carolina and, in 2015, traffic crash numbers reveal about 392 drivers under 21 were involved in alcohol-related traffic crashes; and

**WHEREAS,** this time of year brings an increase in incidences of underage drinking in conjunction with Spring Break activities, proms, and "First Week" trips to the beach; and

**WHEREAS,** coordinated by the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, the "Out of Their Hands" campaign during April will help raise awareness of the dangers of underage alcohol use and increase law enforcement efforts to limit access to alcohol by young people.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as**

### ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to support efforts that prevent alcohol abuse and underage drinking in our communities, particularly those that recognize and encourage youth who have made the decision to remain free of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

**HENRY MCMASTER  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**