

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is the third most common developmental disability, affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans and approximately 24,000 individuals in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not been found, accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention can help persons with autism spectrum disorder reach their maximum potential; and

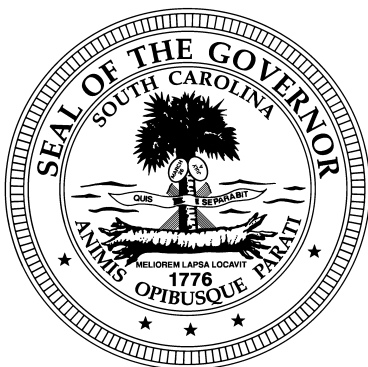
WHEREAS, support groups throughout South Carolina and the nation are dedicated to supporting the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month educates families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2005 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism spectrum disorder are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.



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

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA