

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, significant health disparities exist among African American and other minority groups for preventable health conditions and diseases including HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, African Americans account for approximately thirty percent of the state's population, yet account for an estimated seventy-three percent of recently diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases in South Carolina; and

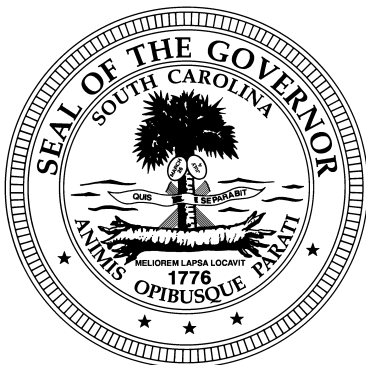
WHEREAS, according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, seven out of every ten men and nearly eight out of every 10 women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are African American, as are eighty percent of the newly diagnosed 15 to 24 year-olds; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 observance of Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day draws attention to the importance of prevention by urging individuals to get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7, 2009, as

BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work to raise awareness on the need to get educated about HIV/AIDS, get tested, get involved, and get treated.



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

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA