

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the mental health of South Carolinians is essential to the continued well-being and vitality of our families, businesses, and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** mental health issues affect people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and
- WHEREAS,** people with mental illnesses can recover when provided the necessary services and supports in their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 20 percent of children and young people ages 3 to 17 in the United States have a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder; and
- WHEREAS,** stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and
- WHEREAS,** greater public awareness about mental illnesses can help change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2025 observance of Mental Health Month will help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and the stigma people with mental illness face while delivering the message that, with proper treatment, recovery is possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to increase understanding of mental illness and to raise awareness of the need for appropriate and accessible mental health services.



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

**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**