

# State of South Carolina

## Proclamation

by  
Governor Jim Hodges

WHEREAS, teen smoking increased by approximately 73 percent between 1988 and 1996; and  
WHEREAS, teen smoking is associated with increased respiratory problems, addiction to nicotine, and other drug use; and  
WHEREAS, routine identification checks have proven effective in reducing the sale of tobacco to minors; and  
WHEREAS, the "We Card" program is a statewide education initiative which provides classroom training to retailers involved in the sale of age-restricted products, such as tobacco and alcohol, in an effort to teach employees how to keep these products out of the hands of youth; and  
WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina is committed to working together with the South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores, the South Carolina Merchants Association, the South Carolina Petroleum Marketers Association and the Coalition for Responsible Tobacco Retailing to reduce teen smoking by encouraging retailers to participate in the "We Card" program.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 1999 as

## RESPONSIBLE TOBACCO RETAILING AND "WE CARD" AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact of the efforts of the participants in the "We Card" program to reduce teen smoking among young people in the Palmetto State.



*Jim Hodges*  
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Governor  
State of South Carolina

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