WHEREAS, a significant portion of South Carolina residents are persons with physical, psychiatric, intellectual, learning, vision, hearing, or other disabilities; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities have the same desires as those without disabilities, including a quality education, gainful employment, and community participation; and

WHEREAS, including all individuals with disabilities fully in the community enables the utilization of the invaluable knowledge, skills, talents, and diversity they have to offer; and

WHEREAS, Advocacy Day for Access and Independence recognizes that individuals with disabilities are capable, contributing members of society worthy of full access and inclusion in South Carolina's communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2016, as

ADVOCACY DAY FOR ACCESS AND INDEPENDENCE

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to destroy the barriers that hinder individuals with disabilities from becoming fully independent participants in our communities.