WHEREAS, thousands of South Carolina residents and families are impacted by severe lifelong disabilities including autism, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and intellectual and related disabilities; and

WHEREAS, people with lifelong disabilities are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members, deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, South Carolinians with and without disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together, and grow together; and

WHEREAS, family members, caregivers, and service providers selflessly offer daily care, assistance, supervision, and physical and emotional support to individuals with disabilities to help ensure their full participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 observance of Disabilities Awareness Month celebrates 30 years of advocacy for and successes of people with disabilities in education, employment, and community activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2019 as

DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to promote increased opportunities for people with disabilities, to recognize the many contributions made by people with disabilities in our communities, and to honor the dedication of the caregivers who bring support and hope to their fellow citizens.