

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina's hospitals are committed to patient safety, so committed that the South Carolina Hospital Association's (SCHA) Board of Directors established a Zero Harm Award to be given to any hospital in the state that could demonstrate at least twelve consecutive months without a specific type of harm event; and

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina hospitals have adopted new approaches towards improving quality of care and are now national models for how to become more highly reliable; and

**WHEREAS,** since 2014, SCHA has recognized these efforts through its Certified Zero Harm Awards which recognize the progress South Carolina hospitals have made in eliminating areas of harm, such as bloodstream and post-surgery infections, through the kinds of systemic and procedural improvements that are fostered by a culture of learning, reporting, accountability, and innovation; and

**WHEREAS,** last year, 60 hospitals, representing two-thirds of SCHA's membership, won at least one award; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2023 SCHA will celebrate ten years of focused effort in eliminating specific preventable harm; and

**WHEREAS,** since launching the Certified Zero Harm Awards in 2013, SCHA has awarded more than 1,000 Certified Zero Harm Awards in the first ten years of the program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as**

### SC ZERO HARM PATIENT SAFETY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the accomplishments of our hospitals and raise awareness of South Carolina's role as a nationwide model in patient safety.



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

**HENRY McMASTER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**