

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, access to justice is a fundamental right that is essential to a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, one-quarter of the state's population lives at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level and faces many hardships, including a lack of access to legal assistance in areas of basic human need such as housing, family, and financial matters; and

WHEREAS, this inability to access legal assistance, or justice gap, also impacts our court system, as a rapidly increasing number of indigent South Carolinians find their only avenue to access the courts is through self-representation; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that private lawyers across our state supplement the valiant work of South Carolina Legal Services and other legal aid organizations through pro bono legal assistance in an effort to address this justice gap; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association, since 2009, has designated one week in October to recognize the incredible difference that pro bono lawyers make to our nation, to our system of justice, to our communities and, most of all, to the clients they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 25-29, 2021, as

CELEBRATE PRO BONO WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the lawyers in our state who provide pro bono legal assistance to low-income South Carolinians in an effort to close the justice gap and ensure a just democratic society for all people of the Palmetto State.



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

HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA