WHEREAS, more than 51.4 million Americans are unable to read or write at the most basic level while 75.1 million lack basic math skills as well as the credentials and skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, every year, one in three young adults drops out of high school; and

WHEREAS, adult education programs contribute to solving these challenges by helping Americans advance in their educational journey to achieve basic skills and get prepared for career and college; and

WHEREAS, adult education and family literacy programs assist adults who are parents or family members in obtaining the education and skills that are necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children and lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family; and

WHEREAS, the 52 local adult education providers in South Carolina provide instruction and testing services for residents seeking to attain a high school equivalency credential and support adults in strengthening core literacy, numeracy, and digital skills, learning English as a second language and civics, and preparing for college or to immediately enter a career pathway; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina celebrates Adult Education and Family Literacy Week as a proud participant in the national Educate & Elevate Campaign which helps our citizens learn about their adult education options to attain their professional and personal goals; and

WHEREAS, adult education programs in high schools, adult schools, community colleges, and community centers offer low cost, high value programs that upgrade the skill set of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the Palmetto State, an estimated 796,387 citizens ages 16 - 74 are below literacy level, and an estimated 669,332 South Carolinians over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent; and

WHEREAS, in 2020-21, South Carolina adult education programs served 11,150 adult learners; with 1,561 earning a high school equivalency diploma (GED) and 616 earning a high school diploma.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 19 - 25, 2021, as

SOUTH CAROLINA ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to increase literacy among the residents of the Palmetto State.

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA