WHEREAS, swimming and other water-related activities contribute to good physical and mental health and a better quality of life for people in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, water safety education plays an essential role in preventing drownings and recreational water-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, the recreational water industry contributes to the development of safe swimming facilities, aquatic programs, home pools and spas, and related activities, helping to provide healthy places to recreate, learn, grow, and build self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of self-worth; and

WHEREAS, aquatics professionals help ensure water safety by developing rules and policies designed to guard against injury and educating the public on pool and spa safety issues while fostering fun for the many people who participate in South Carolina's wide variety of aquatic-related recreational activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2020 as

WATER SAFETY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to observe safety rules and practices when engaging in water-related recreational activities.