

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, teenage pregnancy significantly affects the health, economic and educational future of teenagers; and

WHEREAS, teenage parents are often unable to complete their education, which later results in unemployment, underemployment and dependence on public welfare; and

WHEREAS, teenage mothers often seek prenatal care late, if at all, and therefore can suffer increased health risks and their babies are often born premature and with low birth weights; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is committed to involving parents, the business community, education institution, media, policy makers, religious institutions, medical providers, health departments, juvenile justice and social services in helping to prevent teen pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the “Just Wait” Abstinence Unit within the Mississippi Department of Human Services is working to reduce unintended pregnancy among adolescents in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the “Just Wait” Abstinence Campaign, in partnership with other state, local, public, and private agencies, is currently pursuing the concurrent goals of reaching out to adolescents, educating them to the risks involved in premarital sexual activities and enabling them to make the positive choice for abstinence until marriage:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 2003, as

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and I urge all citizens to take due note of this observance and to join the effort to reduce teenage pregnancy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, February 25, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR