

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, afflicting about 15 million people; and

**WHEREAS**, asthma is the leading cause of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed school days each year; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, 2 million people are rushed to the emergency room and 5,000 people die from asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, asthma is a long-term, inflammatory disease in which the airways of the lungs constrict, causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing; and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to allergens and irritants such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke can bring on an asthma episode; and

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke worsens children's asthma in up to one million children; and

**WHEREAS**, there are simple steps people can take to reduce their exposure to environmental asthma triggers; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are encouraging Americans to identify and reduce their exposures to environmental triggers in home and schools, and incorporate environmental controls into their asthma management plans:

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

**ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH**

in the State of Mississippi.

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, May 21, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR