

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, 258,460 Mississippians are affected by “orphan” diseases, disorders that affect such small populations, they are not historically adopted by pharmaceutical companies for drug research; and

**WHEREAS**, while affecting small populations, orphan diseases are serious, chronic illnesses which can cause pain and stress for the individuals and families they affect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orphan Drug Act of 1983, a milestone of federal health care legislation encouraged the pharmaceutical industry to develop new treatments for these disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, since that law was enacted, nearly 240 new rare disease treatments have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, with 900 orphan drugs in the development stage; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi is proud to recognize organizations that have significantly contributed to increasing the awareness of the need for research on these lesser known diseases, encouraging the development of orphan drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, groups like the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and its national member voluntary health agencies have worked for 20 years to find cures and treatments on behalf of the 25 million Americans with these rare disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, NORD, designated as one of the 100 Best Charities in the United States according to *Worth Magazine*, sponsors clinical research that helps the 258,460 Mississippians affected by any of the 6,000 known rare diseases:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 19, 2003, as

**RARE DISEASE DAY**

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 5, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR