

Child Abuse Prevention Month
Blue Ribbon Awareness Campaign
Thursday, April 6, 2000
2:00 p.m.
Capitol Rotunda

Talking Points
Governor Musgrove

- In 1999, 18,389 reports of child abuse and/or neglect were made in Mississippi.
- All of Mississippi's children deserve to live in a home where they are loved, safe and happy.
- The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Campaign is something a number of state agencies and organization have worked very hard to develop. In addition to the Mississippi Department of Human Services, the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, Mississippi Homemaker Volunteers, Mississippi State University and the Girl Scouts of Mississippi are all committed to reaching the public with this important message.
- The First Lady of Mississippi has also been working with all of these organizations to help promote the campaign. Just last week she filmed

a public service announcement in support of the campaign and the agencies' efforts.

- I would now like to ask my wife Melanie Musgrove to do me the honor of coming forward and reading my proclamation.
- (let her read)
- (when she is through, step forward and join her at the podium.)
- We encourage each of you to wear your blue ribbon. Display it wherever you can, and ask your neighbors, church members, friends and family to do the same. Working together, we can make life better for our children. On behalf of all of the children of Mississippi – we thank you for your concern and support.
- (Both you and the first lady should move to the side because Olivia Thomas, with DHS, will come forward and speak)