

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million reports of suspected or known child abuse and neglect involving 5 million American children are made to child protective service agencies each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that every year in America more than 1,200 children, 85 percent under the age of 6 and 44 percent under the age of 1, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the State of Mississippi investigated 17,270 reports of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, 588 of those reports evidenced physical abuse, 1,233 evidenced neglect, 38 evidenced abuse and neglect, 507 evidenced sexual abuse, 162 evidenced emotional abuse, and 3 resulted in the death of a child; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 3 children die everyday in America from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, too many of Mississippi's children, and children across the United States, are being abused, neglected and murdered—Mississippi wants to make our citizens aware of this atrocity and to encourage them to take a stand through education and their actions because the worst thing they can do about child abuse is nothing:

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

CHILD ABUSE 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, April 3, 2003,
in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of
the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR