

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, more than one billion people—one sixth of the world’s population are between the ages of 15 and 24, the largest generation ever in this age bracket; and

WHEREAS, nearly half the world’s population, and 63% in the least developed countries, is under age 25; and

WHEREAS, 17 million young women between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth every year, including some 13 million who live in less developed countries; and

WHEREAS, early pregnancy and childbearing is associated with serious health risks as well as less education and lower future income potential for young mothers; and

WHEREAS, risks of dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth are 25 times higher for girls under 15, and two times higher for women between 15 and 19; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of the 5 million people infected with HIV last year were young people age 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, almost 12 million young people now live with HIV, and about 6,000 more become infected every day; and

WHEREAS, the choices young people make today regarding their sexual and reproductive lives, including responsible male behavior, will determine whether world population stabilizes at 8 billion or less or 9 billion or more; and

WHEREAS, the theme of World Population Awareness Week, proclaimed last year by United States Governors of 31 states, Mayors of 288 U.S. cities, and 266 organizations from 77 countries, is “Population and the Next Generation.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 2002, as

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

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, August 6, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR