

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, daily consumption of a folic acid B-vitamin, when taken before a pregnancy begins, has been proven to reduce the risk of certain neural and spinal birth defects by up to 70%; and

WHEREAS, according to recent research only 25% of women in Mississippi consume a folic acid multivitamin daily before pregnancy, and only 19% are aware that consumption must occur before conception; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi has the largest percentage of infants born with low birthweight, and the highest percentage rate of infant mortality in the country; and

WHEREAS, a number of organizations are working to educate the women of Mississippi on how to prevent birth defects and decrease infant mortality:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the week of September 8 through September 14, 2002, as

FOLIC ACID AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and I urge all citizens to pass along this vital message, to consume folic acid and ensure a future in which every child will be born healthy and to continue to work together to save babies.

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, September 25, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR