

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, 48 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 use computers; and

**WHEREAS**, 5 to 17 year-olds in the United States currently spend 5 billion hours online annually; and

**WHEREAS**, 70 million youth under the age of 18 worldwide are online; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of teenagers' online use occurs after school, at home, when working parents are not at home; and

**WHEREAS**, 90 percent of those age 15 to 24 use the Internet, with almost half of them using it once a day or more; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 3 out of 4 young people have access to the Internet at home and nearly 1 in 3 has access form their own bedroom; and

**WHEREAS**, 9 out of 10 children between ages 8 and 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet, with most being accessed unintentionally when, often in the process of doing homework, a child used a seemingly innocent sounding word in an Internet search for information or pictures; and

**WHEREAS**, 62 percent of parents of teenagers are unaware that their children have accessed objectionable Websites; and

**WHEREAS**, 89 percent of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or Instant Messages; and

**WHEREAS**, 30 percent of the girls responding to a Girl Scout Research study reported that they had been sexually harassed in a chat room, but only 7 percent told a parent about the harassment, most fearing their parents would overreact and ban computer usage altogether; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1996, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in 113 cases involving Internet crimes against children, but in 2001, the FBI opened 1,541 cases against suspects of Internet crimes involving child pornography or abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, June as National Internet Safety Month will provide national awareness of the dangers of the Internet while offering education about how to be safe, responsible, and accountable on the Internet:

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

**INTERNET SAFETY 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, May 21, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR