

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program provides nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities with rehabilitation, training, and job coaching necessary to receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social support programs; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, organizations across the State of Mississippi provide employment opportunities to people with disabilities while providing quality, on-time goods and services to the federal government at a competitive price; and

**WHEREAS**, by employing people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program is able to help these individuals enjoy full participation in their community, market their JWOD skills into other public/private sector jobs and create and sustain employment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, in the State of Mississippi, these organizations provide employment opportunities and training for countless Mississippians who are blind or have other severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and meaningful lives, support their families, and develop skills necessary for long-term employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi recognizes the important contribution of these organizations to the citizens of Mississippi:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 12 through October 20, 2002, as

**NATIONAL JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY WEEK**

in the State of Mississippi and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards enhancing employment opportunities for people with visual and other severe disabilities.

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, October 11, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR