

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, primary care is first-contact, comprehensive care provided to people with a wide range of health concerns, and can encompass various medical specialties such as family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and others; and

WHEREAS, primary care practice includes the efforts of interdisciplinary health-care teams involving professions as diverse as: allopathic and osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, optometry, public health, physician assistants, social work, and physical and occupational therapy; and

WHEREAS, primary care practitioners provide a usual source of preventive health-care services and reliable care for patients with both acute and chronic diseases while seeing patients on a regular basis, in an effort to deliver adequate services and ensure quality of care; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, primary care practitioners offer the most cost-effective healthcare available – a potential solution for the millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans. Studies have shown that carefully coordinated efforts to increase the number of primary care practitioners will dramatically decrease the overwhelming number of Americans who go without access to quality healthcare every year; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 National Primary Care Week: Advocacy for Health: A Professional Responsibility has been established by the next generation of America's health-care professionals; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 National Primary Care Week aims to introduce health professions students to the importance of community-responsive primary care; provide them with information about primary care and the range of career opportunities; encourage their collaboration as members of future primary health-care teams; demonstrate the commitment of health professions schools and students to meet the need for primary care practitioners; and work to reduce problems in healthcare access experienced by underserved populations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 National Primary Care Week is focusing on the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010, a national prevention initiative that identifies opportunities to improve the health of all Americans, organized under the broad approaches of health promotion, health protection, and preventive services; and

WHEREAS, during the week of October 19th to October 25th, 2003, health professions students nationwide will host and participate in special educational programs, symposia, workshops, lectures, community outreach, and health fairs that promote primary care:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim that October 19th through the 25th, 2003, as

2003 NATIONAL PRIMARY CARE WEEK
Advocacy for Health: A Professional Responsibility

in the State of Mississippi and I encourage each resident to fully participate and support all activities that promote this critical cause.

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 22, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR