

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, The Parenting Project has created “Preparing Tomorrow’s Parents Month” to honor and celebrate parents by acknowledging the skills, knowledge, time, and responsibility required daily for effective parenting, to raise the public awareness of the importance of maturity and preparation for this most important job, and to ask and provide resources for everyone who has regular contact with children to do at least one activity this month to foster critical parenting and nurturing skills; and

WHEREAS, changes in American society have increased the challenges of parenting while greatly diminishing the opportunities for young people to learn good parenting practices by observation and participation in the routines of family life; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of Americans become parents, but few are prepared for this most awesome role—recent studies confirm that most people have serious gaps in the attitudes, knowledge, and skills required to ensure that their children thrive physically, cognitively, emotionally, and intellectually; and

WHEREAS, lack of parenting capacity and skills is a major contributor to the yearly abuse and neglect reports on three million U.S. children (and all those for whom reports are not files)—abused children are far more likely to become involved in violence as youth and in later life, and abuse, neglect and violence are often tragically repeated in intergenerational cycles; and

WHEREAS, half a million U.S. teens give birth each year—with great personal and societal costs, our country by far leads the developed world in teen parenthood, while understanding the responsibilities and work of effective parenting helps teens postpone this demanding role until they are mature and ready; and

WHEREAS, early experiences shape a child’s brain, impacting overall potential for learning, relationships, and mental health—inadequate parenting is plainly implicated in school failure, depression, addictions, teen pregnancy, and delinquency and later violent criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, parenting education for young people in home, schools, and youth programs helps prevent child abuse by developing empathy, listening, problem-solving and coping skills, and an understanding of child development and appropriate discipline—these skills also help create more caring, cooperative and non-violent classrooms from the day they are taught.

WHEREAS, a national poll found that the vast majority of adults in the U.S. support parenting education for young people in schools; and

WHEREAS, all of Mississippi’s children deserve fathers and mothers who are prepared to be present, engaged, nurturing and effective:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the month of Mother’s Day, May 12 through Father’s Day, June 16, 2002, as

PREPARING TOMORROW’S PARENTS MONTH

in the State of Mississippi, and commend this observance to the people of this state.

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, June 19, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR