

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the mission of the Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition (MCIC) is to reduce the incidence, prevalence, complications, cost and disability attributable to those chronic health problems that have been shown to have the greatest impact on the State's citizens; and

WHEREAS, 80% of the deaths annually in Mississippi are related directly or indirectly to chronic illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the cost of prevention and treatment is very small compared to hospitalization and rehabilitation following a medical emergency; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi leads the country in deaths caused by cardiovascular disease. Heart Disease and strokes account for more than half of all state deaths; and

WHEREAS, cancer is the number two cause of death in Mississippi, and Mississippi ranks fifth in the nation for the highest cancer mortality; and

WHEREAS, over 140,000 adults (8.8% of the population) in Mississippi have been diagnosed with diabetes, and an additional 802,692 Mississippians are at increased risk for undiagnosed diabetes due to age, obesity and sedentary lifestyles. Diabetes leads to complications of cardiovascular disease, end stage renal disease, blindness and lower extremity amputation. Many of the deaths attributable to cardiovascular disease are the result of years of damage from high blood sugar to the cardiovascular system; and

WHEREAS, 167,900 people (6.1% of the people) in Mississippi have asthma; and

WHEREAS, 24% of all Mississippi high school students smoke and one-third of them will eventually die from a tobacco related disease; and

WHEREAS, smoking causes Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis) which is the fourth leading cause of death in Mississippi and contributes to chronic disease for over 6% of all Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, 4,500 Mississippians die each year from a tobacco related disease; and

WHEREAS, 680,000 Mississippi adults and an estimated 4,000 Mississippi children have arthritis (this is on in four Mississippians, and is 8% higher than the national average); and

WHEREAS, 1,000 Mississippians die each year from the flu and pneumonia:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim, January 15, 2002, as

CHRONIC ILLNESS AWARENESS DAY

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, January 15, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR