

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, SIDS is the leading cause of infant deaths between 1 month and 1 year of age; and

WHEREAS, SIDS accounts for almost 3,000 infant deaths nationally; and

WHEREAS, SIDS accounted for 54 infant deaths in Mississippi in 2002; and

WHEREAS, in the United States an unacceptable health gap exists between racial and ethnic populations and the overall general public; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate for White infants in 2002 was 6.9 deaths per 1000 live births and the infant mortality rate for African American infants was 14.7 deaths per 1000 live births; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Community knows that placing a baby on his or her back to sleep, eliminating maternal smoking and smoking around a baby, and eliminating maternal alcohol consumption can help reduce the risk of SIDS and save a baby's life; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local communities working together with partners and volunteers to improve the health of infants are essential to promoting healthy behavior:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 19, 2003, as

SIDS SUNDAY

and the month of October 2003, as

SIDS AWARENESS 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, September 29, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR