

A Proclamation
by
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Alpha 1-Antirypsin Deficiency (A1AD) is a genetic disease of the liver and lungs that results from a lack of the protein in a person's blood which protects the lungs from germs, dust, air pollution, smoke and other inhaled irritants; and

WHEREAS, Alpha 1-Antirypsin Deficiency occurs as a liver disease in infants and early childhood; and

WHEREAS, in adults, the disease more often leads to early onset emphysema, though it is often mis-diagnosed as asthma, chronic bronchitis or early onset chronic obstructive pulmonary disease due to a lack of knowledge or understanding about this disease; and

WHEREAS, Alpha 1 is particularly devastating to families as it strikes at the peak earning and child-rearing years, and occurs as frequently as cystic fibrosis (1 in every 2,500 live births) in the United States while only 4,000 have been identified; and

WHEREAS, May will be proclaimed as National Alpha 1 Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, screening, conferences and events will be held nationally to help raise awareness for early detection and possible organ donors; and

WHEREAS, lung transplantation is an option sought by many individuals as their disease progresses;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May, 2000 as

ALPHA 1 AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and urge all our citizens to become more knowledgeable of this disease and its consequences.

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, March 9, 2000 in the two hundred and twenty-fourth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR