

**A Proclamation**  
**By**  
**Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

**WHEREAS**, lead is a toxic substance that can affect everyone and cause acute as well as lifelong problems; and

**WHEREAS**, for children at risk of lead exposure, a simple blood test and appropriate intervention can prevent a lifetime of irreversible damage by lead exposure and poisoning. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, and at very high levels, seizures, coma and even death; and

**WHEREAS**, this poisoning is preventable, and in Mississippi about five percent of the targeted population screened in 2002 exhibited elevated lead levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the occurrence of lead poisoning in the rest of the Mississippi population is unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, if children are tested for the presence of lead in their blood at a young age, then parents can more effectively protect their child's future health; and

**WHEREAS**, Lead Poisoning Prevention Week reminds us that lead poison prevention is important in protecting the public health of all Mississippians, especially our children:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the week of October 20<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003, as

**LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK**

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

**RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**GOVERNOR**