

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, social workers employed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services are responsible for ensuring the safety, protection and well-being of children and vulnerable adults in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi Department of Human Services' social workers are required to routinely enter dangerous environments in the fulfillment of their duties; and

**WHEREAS**, forty-six (46) incidents of violence and/or threats of violence and/or verbal assaults against MDHS social workers were reported to the MDHS Division of Family and Children's Services' Worker Safety Committee between January 2000 and April 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, July 2003 marks the twenty-second (22<sup>nd</sup>) anniversary of the death of former LeFlore County Social Worker Maple Markham who was murdered in the line of duty as an MDHS social worker; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a tremendous need for community support in the fight against abuse and neglect of children and vulnerable adults in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi is dedicated to protecting and supporting Mississippi Department of Human Services' social workers during their quest to protect children and vulnerable adults:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby and hereafter proclaim the month of July as

**MDHS SOCIAL WORKER SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

in the State of Mississippi and I urge all citizens to take due note of this observance and to support and protect MDHS social workers in their efforts to provide protective services for children and vulnerable adults in 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, July 7,  
2003 in the two hundred and twenty-  
seventh year of the United States of  
America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR