

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is committed to protecting the health and well-being of preteens, teens and single adults in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, White Ribbon Sunday is a statewide observance that calls on people to adhere to God's command to not engage in premarital sex; and

WHEREAS, in Mississippi, we want to remind our citizens that virginity is not merely the physical abstaining from sexual intercourse, but also the mental and spiritual preservation of a person's wholeness until marriage; and

WHEREAS, in Mississippi we want to reduce the occurrence of any premarital sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for activities that promote abstinence until marriage, discourage at-risk behaviors, and educate congregants on the consequences of diverging from God's message regarding the risk of unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and all negative outcomes (psychological, physical, emotional, social) associated with the onset of early sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, since engaging in premarital sexual activities affects the health, economic and educational future of Mississippi families, there is a need to expand the programs already established in order to encourage unmarried Christians especially to make responsible decisions; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of September, and specifically Sunday, September 12, the Communities Working to Unite Youth 501(c) (3) Organization of Rankin County, Mississippi, as sponsors, are providing a support system whereby churches may promote the message of "**Embracing Freedom**" coupled with the message of premarital abstinence to send a clear directive that "waiting without worry" is the preferred choice to reduce occurrences of and possible consequences caused by premarital sex; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the month of September 2021 as

WHITE RIBBON SUNDAY 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, on the 3rd day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR