

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, pain is one of our Nation's most serious health problems. More than 75 million American's live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders and more than 25 million American's suffer with acute pain each year; and

WHEREAS, medical knowledge and technology exists to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated. Also, the majority of healthcare professionals are still unaware of how to effectively treat pain and most people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no relief; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety And Health, pain costs more than \$100 billion annually in lost workdays, medical expenses, and other benefit costs. Many citizens, especially the elderly, minorities, urban and rural poor, are unable to get treatment helping them to manage their pain due to high health care costs; and

WHEREAS, untreated pain may potentially rob Mississippians of their quality of life-affecting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being, and

WHEREAS, people who suffer from pain are too often stigmatized, marginalized, and/or often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management; and

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Pain Society is a growing organization comprised of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses, social worker, pharmacists, chaplains, therapists, civil leaders, non-profit organizations and healthcare business whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people in Mississippi experiencing pain; and

WHEREAS, The Mississippians Pain Society seeks to provide practical information for people with pain and pain issues, inform healthcare professionals about pain management, develop a pain resource center, and serve as an advocate for people experiencing pain, and

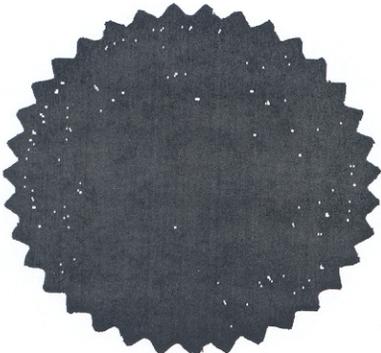
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 2004, as

PAIN 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, on the third day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-eighth.




HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR