

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Gum Disease Awareness Month is a health-promotion event directed at helping people make lifelong improvements in their health and quality of life by sharing information and spreading awareness with a key message of encouragement to take an active role in preventing gum disease with simple tools and habit changes; and

**WHEREAS**, mounting university research indicates gum disease is a possible precursor to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, some cancers and even stillbirths; and

**WHEREAS**, between 74-85% of Americans suffer some degree of gum disease, but less than half are aware of it. Building awareness can improve community health and prevent serious health consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi has committed to providing reliable oral health information, including how to prevent and treat gum disease, because protecting and promoting the oral health, and in turn the overall health, of the people in this community are in the best interest of the individual people and the community as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of public health, Mississippi considers it a priority to educate its citizenry about the advanced treatment options that can help them address the symptoms of moderate to severe gum disease and the dangerous consequences of leaving it untreated; and

**WHEREAS**, Gum Disease Awareness Month supports community health by disseminating important information and the tips and tools to empower citizens to make powerful improvements to their health and the health of their families:

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim February 2016 as

## Gum Disease Awareness Month

in Mississippi and urge our citizens and all agencies and organizations interested in advancing the oral health of our citizens throughout the month with the dissemination of important health information and education designed to help them take an active role in preventing and treating gum disease.



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 20<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, two thousand and sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fortieth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR