

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, while approximately 340 orphan drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases affecting between 11 and 14 million people according to the Food and Drug Administration, that leaves well over 15 million Americans with rare diseases who have no treatment specific to their disease; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

WHEREAS, while some rare diseases, such as Dystonia, "Lou Gehrig's disease" and Huntington's disease are relatively well known, many others are not known at all by the public so that patients and their families must bear a large share of the burden for things such as raising funds for research; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of Mississippi are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in ten Americans have rare diseases; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on February 29, 2016, and patients, medical professionals, researchers, government officials and companies developing treatments for rare diseases are joining together to focus attention on rare diseases as a public health issue on that day:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim February 29, 2016, as

Rare Disease Day

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 twentieth 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