

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and studies suggest that approximately 1 in 2 women and up to 1 in 4 men age 50 and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries suffered approximately 2.1 million osteoporotic fractures a year, and osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes, or breast cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries is expected to grow to over \$95 billion in 2040 without reforms, as the population ages; and

**WHEREAS**, in Mississippi over 16,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 19,400 osteoporotic fractures; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 3,000 Mississippians on Medicare suffered not just an initial fracture, but also a subsequent fracture resulting in estimated costs of over \$62.3 million; and

**WHEREAS**, osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal aging. Building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention of osteoporosis care for our bones is important throughout our lives, but we reach our peak bone mass by early adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercise, and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake; and

**WHEREAS**, osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one cannot feel bones weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Timely bone health screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures leading to hospitalization and nursing home stays; and

**WHEREAS**, cost effective post-fracture care which improves care coordination has been demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet is not widely available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and osteoporosis among the public, health professionals and policy makers.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the month of May as:

### OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and encourage observation of appropriate good health programs and activities with respect to promoting good bone health through the lifetime and preventing and controlling osteoporosis.



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 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.

  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR