PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the week of April 4-10, 2022, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is "Public Health is Where You Are"; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Public Health Association has served the state since 1937 and seeks to advance a Culture of Health in Mississippi through public health leadership, advocacy, and education; and

WHEREAS, U.S. life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again; U.S. life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 by a full year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943; and

WHEREAS, every day, public health professionals in Mississippi work to ensure everyone has the opportunity to lead a healthy life and empower communities with the tools, knowledge, and resources to make a difference by encouraging individuals to take charge of their health by promoting prevention and healthy lifestyles within their community; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters, and disasters caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS, among the greatest public health concerns in Mississippi are physical inactivity, obesity, smoking, vaping and tobacco use, drug use, diabetes, poor nutrition, environmental health, teen pregnancy, as well as infant and maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today's disease surveillance and control systems; and

WHEREAS, preventable risk factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 U.S. adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the week of April 4-10, 2022 as

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 2022

in Mississippi and call upon the people of Mississippi to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme, "Public Health is Where You Are."

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 8th day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR