

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, victims of crime, with the support of their families, friends, and concerned citizens have successfully advocated in Mississippi and across the nation for the passage of laws at the local, state, and federal levels establishing essential rights for victims; and

WHEREAS, crime victims' rights acts passed here in Mississippi and at the federal level have provided victims with a pathway to participate meaningfully throughout the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims are best protected when all participants in the criminal justice process—not only victims—are appropriately educated about victims' rights; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Constitution, Art. 3, § 26A includes a firm commitment to victims' rights, stating, "Victims of crime, as defined by law, shall have the right to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect throughout the criminal justice process; and to be informed, present and to be heard heard, when authorized by law, during public hearings"; and

WHEREAS, supporting victims of crime is a crucial part of the American justice system not only because it demonstrates allegiance to the cornerstone principles of fairness and justice, but also because it honors the experiences of victims, allowing them to find the autonomy and empowerment lost in the criminal acts imposed upon them; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon all of us to help victims access the justice, assistance, and support they need to rebuild their lives and regain an identity outside of their victimization; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement—achieved through compassion and collaboration, and built on the courageous advocacy of individual victims and their families across the country—inspires in us hope for future progress and greater peace and healing; and

WHEREAS, we must all resolve to respond to crime and violence by helping victims find not only support, recovery, and justice, but also a sense of hope for their future; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, celebrated each April, provides an opportunity for all to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime to help them heal on every level: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, and to help them rebuild their lives so they can re-enter society as a whole person with restored dignity; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Office of the Attorney General is dedicated to strengthening the rights of victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and amongst our victim service providers, and bringing hope, healing, and restoration to all victims and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is important not only this week but throughout the year to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for law enforcement, community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may fully heal and be restored:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby recognize the week of April 19 to 25, 2020, as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

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


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

