

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its opinion in *Roe v. Wade*, restricting state authority to protect the life of the unborn. In the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* opinion the Supreme Court, though modifying its analysis in *Roe*, nevertheless continued to limit a state's authority to protect the life of the unborn; and

WHEREAS, as a result of *Roe* and *Casey*, elective abortion has ended the lives of over 63 million unborn children, and in some cases, their mothers as well—nearly a complete generation lost to humanity; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the pro-life movement was born. The work continued and when in 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day, he emphasized that *"The values and freedoms we cherish as Americans rest on our fundamental commitment to the sanctity of human life. The first of the 'unalienable rights' affirmed by our Declaration of Independence is the right to life itself, a right the Declaration states has been endowed by our Creator on all human beings—whether young or old, weak or strong, healthy or handicapped."* Unflinchingly, President Reagan continued: *"Abortion has denied them the first and most basic of human rights, and we are infinitely poorer for their loss. We are poorer not simply for lives not led and for contributions not made, but also for the erosion of our sense of the worth and dignity of every individual. To diminish the value of one category of human life is to diminish us all;"* and

WHEREAS, we have a firm conviction that each life is precious and each individual is created in the image of God, as Psalm 139:13-14 reads *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."* With this deep conviction, the State of Mississippi has stood firm, protecting the unborn and fostering a culture of life; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi defended the MISSISSIPPI GESTATIONAL AGE ACT Miss. Code Ann. §41-41-191 (2018) in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* all the way to the United States Supreme Court. And on **June 24, 2022**, the United States Supreme Court vindicated Mississippi's argument, overruling both *Roe* and *Casey* holding that *"the Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision;"* and

WHEREAS, the 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution reserves to the states and the people powers not explicitly delegated to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, with the *Dobbs* decision, and the authority now rightly *"return[ed] to the people and their elected representatives,"* Mississippi must now turn to the work ahead, to take every step to support mothers and children through policies of compassion, to ensure every baby has a forever family that loves and cherishes them, and to build and sustain our new pro-life agenda—a culture that values the inherent dignity of every individual, restores the wonder of life and, in President Reagan's enduring reminder, champions the *"sense of the worth and dignity of every individual."* Standing on the shoulders of giants in the pro-life movement, we rejoice and press on knowing that our work is not yet done.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim June 2022, to be recognized as

Sanctity of Life Month

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all citizens to celebrate the Sanctity of Life from the unborn to natural death, dedicated to the profound truth that all life is a gift from God, who endows every individual with immeasurable worth and potential.



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 28th day of June 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