

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### A Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, People of all ages throughout the world have developed illnesses from Toxic Injury, also referred to by some as Chemically Induced Illness. In the past some of those who developed intolerance to low-level exposure were sometimes diagnosed with Chemical Sensitivity and/or Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). This intolerance is now known to be caused by toxic-induced changes in brain biochemistry. These changes are also called neural sensitization. Toxic injuries can also include but are not limited to reactive airway dysfunction, toxic encephalopathy, some cases of Parkinson's and other neural degenerative disease, gulf war illness, attention deficit disorder (ADD) attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), increasing chemically related cancers (like brain and neurologic cancers, leukemia, lymphoma, etc.), as well as some cases of multiple sclerosis (ms), autism, immune dysfunction, myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), migraines, irritant asthma, chronic/recurrent sinusitis and/or laryngitis, autoimmune disease, and more. Widespread aching from toxic injury is sometimes labeled "fibromyalgia"; and

**WHEREAS**, Toxic Chemical Injury is often characterized by heightened sensitivity to very small amounts of air pollution, petrochemicals and other toxins found in our everyday products and environment. It can be caused by short-term, or chronic exposure to one or more chemicals, frequently pesticides, and solvents and can start at any age. It knows "NO" boundaries. Every person, young, old, rich, poor, regardless of color, creed or education; "EVERYONE" is at Risk!;

**WHEREAS**, Toxic Injury may include multiple, often disabling illnesses, affecting the respiratory, central nervous (brain), immune, musculoskeletal, porphyrin, energy metabolism (energy generation for function of every body cell), and endocrine systems and can be life threatening. Symptoms may include but are not limited to severe headaches, poor coordination, and concentration, short term memory loss, stroke-like symptoms and seizures, increased thirst, heart palpitations and/or increased blood pressure and hear rate (worse with chemical exposure), chronic fatigue, aching joints and muscles, burning sensation (skin, eyes, respiratory gastrointestinal, genital urinary systems), difficulty breathing and irritated eyes, nose, ears, throat, and/or skin rashes; and

**WHEREAS**, Toxic Injury is a chronic debilitating condition for which there is no known cure, causing serious financial, employment, learning, housing, health, social and other consequences. It is crucial for those with Toxic Injury to have the support and understanding of their government, families, friends, and society in general as they struggle with the restrictions and isolation now placed on them; and

**WHEREAS**, Invisible (chemical) barriers stop those with chemical hypersensitivity from enjoying the same rights and privileges others take for granted but given environmental controls (less toxic materials and procedures) and reasonable accommodations, many of the chemically ill could once again be self-reliant and financially independent; and

**WHEREAS**, The prevalence of these illnesses and the lack of knowledge and qualified doctors clearly warrant further education in this field for the public in general, future as well as practicing doctors, dentists, rescue personnel as well as other health care, social service, rehabilitation, housing, architects, HVAC designers and installers, building maintenance and cleaning personnel, school and employer/supervisory persons at schools, work places and public facilities and pest control personnel. "Knowledge is Power," and that Power of Knowledge can save precious lives!

**WHEREAS**, There are diagnostic codes readily available for toxic effects of many chemicals found in our everyday environment and surroundings; and

**WHEREAS**, Those suffering with Toxic Injury deserve the same rights, acknowledgement, respect, support and help allotted to other illnesses & disabilities:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 2005, as

### ***TOXIC INJURY AWARENESS & EDUCATION MONTH***

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 twenty-third day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

HALEY BARBOUR