STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recognizes that it has a vital role in identifying, protecting its citizens from, and responding to cybersecurity threats that may have significant impact to our individual and collective safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure sectors are increasingly reliant on information systems and technology to support financial services, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care and emergency response systems; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity education and awareness is crucial for everyone, including large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, the home user, and anyone who connects to the internet; and

WHEREAS, monitoring your online accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up-to-date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, installing anti-virus programs and firewalls, and using mobile devises safely are ways you can protect yourself from phishing, viruses, malware, and loss of sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, the Stop.Think.Connect.™ Campaign serves as the national cybersecurity public awareness campaign, implemented through a coalition of private companies, nonprofit and government organizations, as well as academic institutions working together to increase the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework has been developed as a free resource to help organizations (large and small, both public and private) improve their cybersecurity practices through a practical approach to addressing evolving threats and challenges; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the security of cyberspace is a shared responsibility in which each of us has a critical role to play, and awareness of computer security essentials will improve the security of the State of Mississippi's information, infrastructure and economy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (www.dhs.gov/cyber), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (www.msisac.org), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (www.nascio.org), and the National Cyber Security Alliance (www.staysafeonline.org) all recognize October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby designate October 2020 as

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

in Mississippi, and encourage all Mississippians to educate and protect themselves from Cyber threats including by utilizing the resources and websites listed above, along with the website of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (www.its.ms.gov) and the Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign website (www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect or www.stopthinkconnect.org) to learn about cybersecurity and to put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces and businesses.

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 this the 23rd day of September, 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-fifth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR