



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Marriage is not just another lifestyle choice but the foundation of healthy families and a healthy future for America; and

WHEREAS, Marriage, in every known human society, creates new families, binds men and women together in a network of affection, mutual aid, and mutual obligation, commits parents to their children, and connects children to a wider network of welcoming kin. Marriage is the outward, visible sign of a man and a woman's desire to create a lasting love, and forge a tie so strong that a child's heart can rely upon it; and

WHEREAS, Mounting scientific evidence confirms that children raised outside of marriage are more likely to commit crime, to fail at school and on the job, to abuse drugs, to lapse into physical and mental illness, to become teen parents, to suffer material deprivation, and perhaps saddest of all, to become the victims of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, Marriage as an institution deserves our special respect and concern because healthy marriages create a way for children to enjoy the full emotional, moral and financial protection of both parents; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the special place of marriage in American society and in American hearts; and

WHEREAS, We honor marriage as the extraordinary vow that ordinary people make and guide their lives by every day; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the irreplaceable importance of lasting, healthy marriages to the well-being of children and therefore, to the future of our nation; and

WHEREAS, We wish to applaud and encourage efforts by our state and local governments, our faith communities and by leaders of civil society to strengthen marriages:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 2008, as

Healthy Marriage Month

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capital in the City of Montgomery on the 8th day of February 2008.

Bob Riley
Governor Bob Riley