

By: Representative Gunn

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 654

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE THIRD THURSDAY IN SEPTEMBER OF EACH  
2 YEAR AS MISSISSIPPI HEALTH AWARENESS DAY TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND  
3 DISEASE PREVENTION EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI;  
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, the Community Organization for Health Awareness,  
6 Incorporated (COHA, Inc.) was established in 1994 to assist  
7 Mississippi communities with addressing the astounding statistics  
8 related to heart attack, stroke, cancer, teen pregnancy, teen  
9 alcohol and drug abuse, as well as other health related matters;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, medical practitioners, social service and other  
12 personnel along with community residents volunteer their talent  
13 and resources in a collaborative effort to engage, educate and  
14 inform underserved communities with regard to the prevention of  
15 diseases that plague this population; and

16 WHEREAS, since its inception, COHA, Inc., has had a  
17 tremendous impact on the lives of many residents through annual  
18 health fairs and numerous other community based initiatives, all  
19 at no cost to recipients; and

20 WHEREAS, a continued improvement in the overall quality of  
21 life for many Mississippi citizens has been realized through the  
22 contributions of COHA, Inc., to humankind; and

23 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate to designate one (1) day of  
24 each year to focus on improving the health of all Mississippians  
25 through disease prevention efforts: NOW, THEREFORE,

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

27 **SECTION 1.** The third Thursday in September of each year is  
28 designated as Mississippi Health Awareness Day to promote health

29 and disease prevention efforts throughout the State of  
30 Mississippi.

31           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
32 and after July 1, 2005.