JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Hepatitis Awareness Month

WHEREAS, May is National Hepatitis Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, three hepatitis viruses (hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C) cause significant morbidity; and

WHEREAS, hepatitis A and hepatitis B are preventable by vaccination; and

WHEREAS, hepatitis A is one of the most frequently reported vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1.25 million persons are chronically infected with hepatitis B in the United States; and

WHEREAS, four million people in the United States are infected with hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated 300,000 Floridians are currently infected with hepatitis C, nearly three fourths of whom are unaware of their infection; and

WHEREAS, if left undetected, hepatitis B and C can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, or liver failure; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health's Hepatitis Prevention Program raises statewide public awareness of viral hepatitis, provides public and professional education, tracks the burden of disease and detects outbreaks, conducts research, and offers testing and vaccination for adults at increased risk for infection or the serious consequences of infection;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the state of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 2006 as Hepatitis Awareness Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 26th day of April in the year two thousand six.

Jeb Bush

GOVERNOR