

Statement from Governor Ronnie Musgrove regarding the July 18 special session:

“As I have said so many times before, there is no greater investment we can make than in education. It is the highest priority for my administration, and I will do everything in my power to support our children and teachers. I have called for the removal of the five percent provision since the legislation was passed last year, and now we have the opportunity to do it. We have to act now.

“Most House and Senate members believe this is the most important issue we can address. It is unfortunate they didn’t get a chance to vote on it in the regular session. This should not take more than two hours. I believe legislators feel so strongly that they would do this without pay. However, if we are trying to save money, then I will personally raise the funds to reimburse the state for the cost of the special session, because it is that important.

“The most important thing here is education. Five years from now, people won’t be concerned with the cost of a one-day special session; they will be happy that Mississippi is able to recruit and retain the finest teachers in the nation.”