

The Legislature still has not provided extra money for Medicaid. Does this mean cuts are going to start being made?

The Legislature has lifted the quarterly provision on Medicaid spending and, even more importantly, given Rica Lewis-Payton the flexibility she needs to make our Medicaid program the most efficient and effective program in the nation. This is a key point.

We will begin working immediately to improve the structure of Medicaid. In the meantime, we have written assurance from the Speaker of the House that the House of Representatives will work to cover funding needs that may come up in the '03 fiscal year.

The actual funding for Fiscal Year 2003 is \$350 million.

I appreciate the Speaker's commitment to making Medicaid work for the people of Mississippi. We will continue working to find that same common ground with the Senate.