

As the Governor of the State of Mississippi, it is my honor, it is my duty, my responsibility, and indeed it is my pleasure to provide leadership to every citizen of the State of Mississippi.

Every person in this state is entitled to a quality educational opportunities
Every person in this state is entitled fairness, they are entitled to a justice system that works for everyone.

We do not appreciate, in this state, national figures coming to Mississippi to conduct a smear campaign without first having the facts.

This smear campaign is an indignment on our state, on all of our people in the state.

Our state is made up of white citizens and black citizens. Our law enforcement is made up of white citizens and black citizens. Our schools are made up of a diverse population. Our communities are made up of a diverse population, and every one of the 2.7 million people in our state deserve to know that no stone will be unturned when it comes to treating people fairly. That is what we intend to do. That is the kind of leadership we intend to offer. That is why I want to commend and thank the Marion County Sheriff's Department and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, both of whom saw the need for calling in the FBI, to make sure we had a full, complete and exhaustive investigation in this matter. The family of Raynard Johnson deserves that. And so does every citizen in the state of Mississippi. But not only does every citizen of this state deserve that, but those people who are outside the borders of our state deserve to know that every citizen in our state will be treated fairly and justly and the opportunities that our state offers are opportunities that are afforded to not just a few, but are offered and afforded to everyone. That's important because everything we do must go to the benefit of all of our citizens. That is also why I am here to tell you that if any lead, if any evidence, if anything is brought forward that would further information on this investigation, we will pursue it to the fullest extent. We also know where we are today. What the facts are and what the evidence leads to and what the medical examinations prove. It is just as Dr. Baden says, and it is just as Colonel Claiborne says, that this was a self-inflicted death.

Our hearts go out to the Johnson family. We will continue to work every day until everyone knows that all of our citizens have equal opportunity in every part of the state regardless of who they are.