

*Remarks to the  
Governor's Health Care Summit  
Friday, June 1, 2001*

- Good morning.
  
- Pleased to be hear to help kick off the first of three Governor's Health Care Summits to be held this year.
  - Health care too large an issue to discuss in one day

- Today's summit focusing on  
“Solutions for the Uninsured”
  - Too many Mississippians without health care
  - Important for everyone to have access to quality health care
  - Important for us to examine this issue carefully

- Today you will have opportunity to hear the experts weigh in on this issue
  - Panels bringing together leaders in the fields of health care, insurance, and policy

- Need to step and look at big picture first
  - We're creating opportunities in Mississippi
  - Opportunities in:
    - Education
    - Economic Development
    - Health care

- Education and economic development go hand in hand
  - Must have good quality of life to attract business and industry
    - Health care options are key to good quality of life
    - Safe schools / homes / communities also key

- Key is setting priorities and investing in wisely
  
- We talk often about positioning Mississippi for economic development
  - Have to be competitive in health care arena

- Making progress in better health care opportunities for people of Mississippi
  - Medical scholarship program to attract physicians to areas with critical needs
  - Children's Health Insurance Program
  - Licensed Physicians Assistants
  - Nurse practitioners

- Promise to the people of Mississippi
  - They have our commitment to finding solutions that work
  
- Exciting step forward in April
  - Establishment of Rural Health Care Loan Fund



- This fund helps finance
  - Community health centers
  - Rural clinics
  - Hospitals
  - Physicians, pharmacists and dentists
  
- All in medically underserved areas of the state

- This means more Mississippians with better access to good health care options
  - Means more Mississippians getting medical attention they need
  - Means healthier Mississippians
  - Means better quality of life
  
- Thanks to Enterprise Corporation of the Delta and Mississippi Access for Rural Care for their work on this initiative

- Sound, solid health care is a vital part of our efforts to improve the lives of Mississippians
  
- And, we're making progress
  - Takes a cooperative effort
  - Not going to stop now
  
- We will create wonderful opportunities for people of Mississippi
  - Want children to live, work, and raise their families here

- Everyone in Mississippi, old and young, deserves that commitment
- Thank you for your part in making that commitment a reality