

June 7, 2000

Ms. Andriette Johnson, Director  
HCFA Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909

RE: Eligibility Waiting Periods

Governor Ronnie Musgrove is committed to providing adequate health care coverage for all Mississippi children. Mississippi has one of the largest uninsured populations in America. It is essential that we reduce, or even eliminate, the "red tape" associated with providing access to health insurance. Studies often show that healthy children learn more, faster and that learned students attain better jobs and longer careers.

Governor Musgrove seeks the elimination of the eligibility waiting period for all applicants to Mississippi's Children Health Insurance Program. In the event that HCFA fails to approve a plan amendment to eliminate the waiting period, HCFA should suggest an alternative