
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
COLE
SIMMONS

FROM: BOYD

SUBJECT: HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

DATE: 5/16/2000

CC: FILE

During the Governor's State of the State Address, he addressed some concerns regarding the improvement of health care in Mississippi. Specifically, the Governor discussed

- **reducing the costs for prescription medications,**
- **increasing rural hospital funding,**
- **expanding and enrolling CHIP,**
- **enhancing the Patient Protections Act; and,**
- **improving State Employees and Teachers Health Insurance.**

Additionally, the governor also named priorities during his gubernatorial campaign 1) to improve care for children and elderly and 2) increase access to quality health care. Through the passage of the rural health care scholarship program and the launching of the CHIP outreach campaign, the governor has begun to address these issues.

Before and following the state address, we discussed the Governor appointing a Health Care Task Force to study these issues, identify additional opportunities, and provide recommendations to the Governor. Ideally, this task force would be composed of approximately 25 members who then could tackle issues through smaller focus groups. The task force should include a cross-section of health care providers (i.e., doctors and nurses), advocates, insurance representatives, and pharmacists.

I recommend that the Governor sign an executive order to establish a time-limited task force to discuss health issues confronting Mississippians and recommend methods to address those opportunities. Mr. Mark Calhoun, Dr. Alan Gersh, Dr. Dwalia South, Mr. Willis Washington, Dr. Ed Thompson, and the chairmen of Public Health, and Welfare Committees could serve as good appointments to study these problems.