

*Remarks for the
Medicaid Press Conference
April 12, 2002*

In my State of the State address, I outlined four priorities for the state – jobs, education, public safety and health care. During the legislative session, we were able to find some common ground on those priorities. Today, we found some more.

The issue here was not about sustaining or overriding a veto. The real issue was about finding the common ground necessary to help the people of Mississippi.

I want to thank the Legislature and the leadership for working with us during the session and the past week.

The measures passed today will help Rica Lewis-Payton provide the very best health care services to our seniors, our disabled and our children.

By removing the quarterly provision on the Medicaid budget and giving Rica Lewis-Payton the flexibility she needs, we will now be able to ensure Medicaid works for the people.

We are going to work with health care providers, recipients and legislators to structure the program to be the most effective and efficient program in the nation.

I said in January that our good work cannot be less than our best. Now, I believe we have given our best – and I believe our best is going to help those who need our help the most.