

**MISSISSIPPI MINUTE**

**10/10/02**

THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN MISSISSIPPI HAS BEEN LOOMING FOR MONTHS. I CALLED A SPECIAL SESSION IN SEPTEMBER TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM AND CRAFT A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

WHEN I SIGNED THE BILL LAST WEEK, A MESSAGE WENT OUT TO THE REST OF THE NATION THAT MISSISSIPPI'S A GOOD PLACE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE, WITH QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ITS PEOPLE.

THAT'S A MESSAGE WE WANT PEOPLE TO HEAR, BUT THERE'S STILL WORK TO BE DONE.

AFTER SIGNING THE BILL, I FOLLOWED THROUGH ON MY PROMISE TO EXPAND THE CALL OF THE SPECIAL SESSION TO INCLUDE GENERAL CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM.

THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE ON CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM IS IMPORTANT, AND I ENCOURAGE THEM TO ACT QUICKLY AND RESPONSIBLY.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ANY CIVIL JUSTICE LEGISLATION TO BE FAIR, BALANCED AND REASONABLE. ANY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROTECT THOSE WHO PILLAGE AND RAID THE FINANCES OF OUR FAMILIES, WHO COOK THE BOOKS FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT, OR WHO PREY ON THE ELDERLY TO SATISFY THEIR HUNGER FOR MONEY, WILL NOT SUFFICE.

THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI CAN AFFORD NO LESS.

I'M RONNIE MUSGROVE, AND THIS HAS BEEN THE MISSISSIPPI MINUTE. THANKS FOR LISTENING.