

**Statement of Rica Lewis-Peyton Regarding Rep. Bobby Moody's Chart on Division  
of Medicaid Funding Needs**

For Immediate Release:  
April 8, 2002

“Representative Bobby Moody’s own estimate, used during the floor debate on H.B. 1794, clearly shows that under the best case scenario, the current funding for Medicaid is \$82 million short. With the three to one federal match, this amounts to \$328 million worth of health care in Mississippi that must be cut under the law.

“While I disagree with Representative Moody’s estimates regarding the savings under S.B 2189, the \$328 million shortfall would be a devastating blow to health care services in Mississippi. I will cut all optional services available, which are estimated to be \$49.5 million. This leaves nearly \$300 million which must be cut from nursing home services and prescription drug benefits.

“This is why I’m so concerned. Even using the Legislature’s numbers, 70% of the people in nursing homes lose their benefits. This is a scary proposition for the people of Mississippi.”