

**For Immediate Release**

July 2, 2001

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## **Governor Announces Creation of Commission for Citizens with Disabilities**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced the creation of the Governor’s Commission for Citizens with Disabilities. Created by Executive Order 847, the Commission will serve to develop a system for program planning and advocacy on behalf of individuals with physical, mental and developmental disabilities.

“As we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of our nation’s independence, it is only fitting that we celebrate our individual independence and recognize that everyone deserves a good quality of life,” said Governor Musgrove. “That recognition extends to all Mississippians with disabilities, and I know the Commission will serve them well.”

The Commission will be a time limited commission comprised of fourteen members. The Chair of the Commission will be Christy Dunaway, Project Director of Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE). Members of the Commission will focus on assessing, evaluating and recommending action regarding the needs of citizens with disabilities.

Members of the Commission include Ms. Rica Lewis-Payton, Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid; Mr. H. S. “Butch” McMillan, Executive Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services; Dr. Randy Hendrix, Executive Director of the Department of Mental Health; Dr. Ed Thompson, State Health Officer; Ms. Debbie Shearer, of the Office of the Governor; Ms. Christy Dunaway, Project Director of Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE); Ms. Linda Bond, Executive Director of The Arc of Mississippi; Mr. Mike Myers of Waveland, MS; Ms. Jan Downer of Jackson; Mr. Dan McGaugh of Brandon; Reverend Bruns Myers, III, of Jackson; Mr. Allen Graham of Ridgeland; Ms. Mary Troupe of Jackson; and Mr. Sam Gleese of Jackson.

