

For Immediate Release
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Governor's Health Care Summit on Senior Citizens Scheduled for Hattiesburg

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove will be hosting the Governor's Health Care Summit on Monday, October 22, 2001, at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg. This third and final summit, which is free of charge, will focus on the needs of Mississippi's senior citizens.

“The needs of older Mississippians are complex, and this summit is designed to offer some solutions for meeting those needs,” Musgrove said. “Those needs include prescription drugs, nursing homes, adult day care, and the costs involved in providing for those needs.”

Musgrove will present his health care proposal as part of the opening address. This proposal, which uses a portion of the tobacco settlement revenue to maximize federal dollars for health care, would have a dramatic impact on health issues for senior citizens.

Other presenters scheduled for the day include Theresa Heinz of the Heinz Foundation, who will discuss the rising costs of prescription drugs and a plan offered by the Heinz Foundation to address those costs. Josefina Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be the keynote speaker for the day.

“We are fortunate to have some of the leading experts in the field of senior health care issues with us at this summit,” said Musgrove. “Theresa Heinz and Josefina Carbonell are well-respected in the health care industry and their input on Mississippi's needs will help us shape services in the years to come.”

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In addition to the presentations, free health screenings will be provided by Forrest General Hospital, along with free blood pressure screenings by student nurses from Pearl River County Junior College and Home Care Nurses. Flu Vaccines will be offered by the Jones County Health Department (Note: There will be a fee of \$10 for individuals who do not have Medicare, Part B).

Sponsors for the summit include the Mississippi Department of Human Services, the Mississippi Hospital Association, Forrest General Hospital, South Central Regional Hospital and Wesley Medical Center.

Registration for the summit begins at 8:30 a.m. To pre-register and for complete information on the Governor's Health Care Summit on Senior Citizens, log on to Governor Musgrove's website at www.governor.state.ms.us.