

For Immediate Release
July 26, 2001

Contact: John Sewell
601-359-2916

Governor Ronnie Musgrove Unveils Plan of Action for Mississippi at Neshoba County Fair

Philadelphia, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove unveiled a new plan of action today at the Neshoba County Fair to address the needs of Mississippi’s state employees and higher education faculty.

“This plan of action is what is needed next in Mississippi,” said Musgrove. “We made history last week with the teacher pay raise legislation, and now we must address other needs in our state.”

Musgrove’s plan would take a portion of the annual payments from the tobacco settlement, and divert them to Medicaid. The funds would still be used for health care purposes, as required, but would be matched by the federal government to maximize their use.

Such action would free up general funds now being used for Medicaid to address four areas: state and school employees insurance enhancement, a state employee pay raise, university faculty pay raise, and pay increases for community and junior college faculty.