

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Calls for Plan To Address Early Childhood Issues**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove says Mississippi needs a long-range plan and strategic goals for improving early childhood services in the state.

“We have taken steps to assess the quality of these services, and there are several initiatives already underway around the state to improve them,” Musgrove said. “What we need, and what our youngest citizens deserve, is for early childhood education to become a priority for our state.”

Musgrove praised the work of the Barksdale Reading Institute and Chevron for their efforts regarding early childhood issues, as well as other programs supported by Medicaid, the Department of Human Services and Head Start.

“When we talk about the people of Mississippi, we must include those who can’t yet speak for themselves,” said Musgrove. “All our work in education, economic development and health care will mean nothing if the next generation isn’t prepared to make the most of it.”

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