

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Signs Medical Malpractice Reform Bill

(Jackson, MS) – In a ceremony today at the state capital, Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed medical malpractice reforms into law. Musgrove called the Legislature into a special session on September 5 to address the issue.

“Today, Mississippi’s health care crisis has been addressed,” Musgrove said. “The people of our state need to know their doctors will be there to provide care for them, and that assurance has been given.”

Musgrove spoke to the need for medical malpractice reform in May and announced he would call a special session later in the year. A joint legislative committee held hearings around the state over the summer prior to Musgrove’s September 5 call.

“The end result of this long special session was a piece of legislation that offers a foundation for better health care in Mississippi,” said Musgrove.

Musgrove also expanded the call to include general civil justice reform.

“I urge the Legislature to take up this call and the surrounding issues with the same diligence they applied to medical malpractice reform,” he said.

The bill signed by Musgrove today becomes effective January 1, 2003.

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