

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Announces Intent to Veto Medicaid Appropriations Bill**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today that he is vetoing House Bill 1794, the Medicaid appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2003, and Senate Bill 2189, a Medicaid technical amendment bill. Medicaid provides medical services for Mississippi's elderly, disabled and children.

“The failure of the Legislature to fully fund Medicaid will force 13,000 Mississippians out of nursing homes and cut prescription drug benefits for thousands more,” Musgrove said. “We need to work on a solution now to prevent this from happening to our elderly, our disabled and our children. They deserve better.”

Medicaid was underfunded this year by \$120 million. With matching federal dollars taken into account, that figure jumps to \$480 million in health care services at risk of being lost.

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