

Governor Musgrove Requests Attorney General's Opinion Regarding Medicaid Services

Jackson – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today requested official clarification of a statement made Tuesday evening by Attorney General Mike Moore to the *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper. Moore told the *Clarion-Ledger* that, due to the current shortfall in Medicaid funding, he believes Governor Musgrove is in violation of state law by not cutting optional services.

Medicaid provides health insurance for children, elderly and disabled.

“We're not just talking about numbers and statistics here. The services provided through Medicaid help our children go to school healthier and ready to learn, and help provide our parents and grandparents with peace of mind in their later years,” said Governor Musgrove.

“What Mike Moore wants to do is cut those Medicaid services. This will have a tremendous impact on thousands of people in Mississippi including 17,000 seniors in our Nursing Homes; 781 disabled children; 50,000 children on the Children's Health Insurance Program; 545,000 Mississippians who rely on Medicaid for prescription drugs; and 51,000 pregnant women,” stated Musgrove.

“I have said from the beginning that cuts in Medicaid services are unacceptable. We are not going to allow a national recession to cause cuts; and we are certainly not going to allow Mike Moore to cause cuts,” said Musgrove.

The Governor, Rica Lewis-Payton, Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid, and the leadership of the Legislature have been working to craft a solution to the Medicaid shortfall.

“In the end, we do not anticipate there being a shortfall in the Medicaid funds. I have been working tirelessly with the Governor and the Leadership and I am confident that we will find a solution to this challenge,” said Lewis-Payton.