

For Immediate Release

January 22, 2002

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Governor Musgrove Announces Grant Award From U. S. Department of Transportation

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced that Mississippi has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$456,562 to continue its efforts in promoting seat belt use in the state.

“This announcement is confirmation that we are doing the right things to improve the safety of the people of Mississippi,” Musgrove said. “Last year, through aggressive efforts on the part of our Department of Public Safety and Mississippi Highway Patrol, we saw seat belt usage increase. As a result, fatalities on our highways were down nearly 40 percent.”

According to the award letter from the U. S. Department of Transportation, seat belts provide “the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries...and are estimated to save approximately 11,000 lives in America each year.”

Mississippi was awarded the grant based on its specific “plans for enforcement operations, public information and education campaigns ... and other strategies that have the potential to boost seat belt use substantially.”

The grant is for Fiscal Year 2002, and is awarded through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).