

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove: Newborn Screening Program Sets National Standard

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today said that Mississippi’s newborn screening program sets a standard for other states to follow in building a healthy future for children. Legislation signed last year by Musgrove requires 40 genetic screening tests on every newborn in the state; previously only five tests were administered.

“The greatest natural resource we have in Mississippi, or in the world, for that matter, is our children,” Musgrove said. “There’s nothing more precious or more important to our future.”

Robin Haygood of Tupelo and her husband, Vince, were the driving force behind the passage of the legislation. They lost their two-year-old son, Ben, to a genetic disorder that could have been caught if newborn screening tests had been done. The “Ben Haygood Comprehensive Newborn Screening Program” was signed into law by Musgrove on April 11, 2002.

Musgrove praised the Haygoods for their commitment and determination in making a difference.

“Today, we celebrate the difference that has been made in the lives of Mississippi’s children,” said Musgrove, “and we celebrate and honor the life of Ben Haygood.”

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