

Governor Musgrove's 2001 Legislative Summary

May 7, 2001

Education is a top priority of Governor Musgrove's administration, and during the 2001 Legislative Session we provided funding for teacher pay raises, Mississippi Adequate Education Program, and Critical Teacher Shortage Act. We were also successful in securing funding for the continued implementation of the Classroom Technology Project and placed 6,325 Internet-accessible computers in Mississippi classrooms. Settlement of the Ayer's Case is underway, and we anticipate closure of this 26-year-old shortly.

Funding was maintained for Mississippi Development Authority's economic and expansion efforts. Appropriations were authorized for implementation of e-Government in Mississippi, and we are in the process of establishing a Mississippi Technology Center.

Health care continues to be a major concern for all Mississippians. During this session, we reauthorized Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) until 2004, secured additional funding for state employees health insurance and improved the options for our employees. Funding was also secured for breast and cervical cancer research and for Medical Education Scholarships, as well as reauthorizing the Infant Mortality Task Force. We were also successful in strengthening and reauthorizing the "Mississippi Individual On-Site Wastewater Disposal System Law."

We will continue to emphasize the importance of responsible budgeting and spending by the legislature. It is important that we use our priorities of education, health care and economic development to guide our decisions. It is our intent to create a better quality of life for all of our people across the state of Mississippi.