

2003 Accomplishments

Governor Ronnie Musgrove

Education

- Historic precedent of 2003 session – Mississippi invested 62% of budget for education. Increased education spending while other states are cutting spending for education.
- National Governor’s Association confirmed Mississippi is the first state in the nation to put an internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom.
- Mississippi is leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind”. Secretary Rod Paige announced Mississippi as the 6th state in the nation to have our education planned approved.
- Established an Early Childhood Education Task Force
- The lead governor on education for the National Governor’s Association
- Chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board

Jobs

- Opening of the Nissan plant in Canton, Mississippi. The Nissan plant is the only plant opening in the nation this year and represents the top economic development project in the nation with \$1.5 billion invested and 5,300 direct jobs.
- Passage of Rural Economic Impact Authority - \$10 million to support worker training at our junior and community colleges and to help local communities with economic development opportunities.
- East Mississippi/West Alabama Alliance - an interstate agreement focused on job creation along the border between the two states. The first such agreement in the nation between two states.
- Expansion of Northrop Grumman Ship Systems and Howard Industries.
- January 2003 issue of *Expansion Management* magazine ranked four Mississippi cities among America’s fifty hottest cities for expansion.

Safety

- First Responders Conference
- Incident Command System – emergency responders working together
- Statewide bioterrorism exercises
- Passage of laws to strengthen domestic violence laws and child sexual abuse laws

Health Care

- Established Medical Malpractice Risk Pool – allows health care professionals to have affordable medical malpractice insurance coverage.
- Policy Academy: “Improving Access to Mainstream Services for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness.” Draft Action Plan submitted
- NGA Policy Academy “Improving Oral Health Care for Children”- Action Plan has resulted in a new State Dental Director at the Department of Health. Implemented sealant program to protect children in areas of state without fluoridated water, and currently implementing fluoridation of water statewide through a partnership between the Department of Health and the Bower Foundation
- NGA Policy Academy on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management. Action Plan ongoing. State Physical Ed coordinator hired at Department of Education.
- Fought and was granted “flexibility” for the Mississippi Division of Medicaid which resulted in the implementation of many cost containment measures and a decrease in the Medicaid shortfall
- Fought and was granted “flexibility” for the Department of Human Resources which will allow the agency to prioritize critical services with limited funding
- “Governor’s Mississippi Alliance for Prevention” which focuses on substance abuse prevention among 12-17 year old youth. Led by Governor Musgrove, the MAP initiative is administered by the Department of Mental Health and implemented by DREAM. Grants of \$100,000 per year for three years are going to communities statewide.
- Pharmacy Benefits Manager to contain pharmacy costs at Medicaid
- Established “Governor’s Health Care Commission.” The Commission is made up of a wide representation of providers who give advice to the Governor’s Office and the Mississippi Division of Medicaid in order to make better decisions about cost containment measures that affect vulnerable elderly, disabled, and children who depend on Medicaid for services.
- Worked with Department of Human Services and the Legislature to improve child support collections through legislation.
- Developed “Mississippi Access to Healthcare” or MATH proposal which was based on preventative approach to healthcare which not only saves dollars, but improves the quality of life of Mississippians. Health Care Summits were held statewide to educate Mississippians about the importance of preventative services.

Government

- Passage of “Do Not Call”
- Passage of Administrative Procedures Act making government more accountable to the people
- Strengthening of Open Meeting Laws
- Appointment of Margaret Hill as the first female Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration which oversees budgets of all state agencies

National Boards and Commissions

- Chairman, Southern Growth Policies Board
- Chairman, Southern Regional Education Board
- Chairman, Southern States Energy Board
- National Board of Directors of Jobs for America’s Graduates
- Executive Committee, National Governor’s Association
- Executive Committee, Southern Governor’s Association
- Executive Committee, Democratic Governor’s Committee
- National Assessment Governing Board
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards