

August 12, 2003

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Dear :

According to a national study of the uninsured, an estimated 30-34% of Mississippi residents do not have health insurance. The Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid, applied for and received funding for a one year planning grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant is designed to gather data, specific to the State, to assist in reducing the number of uninsured in Mississippi through State, Federal, and private partnerships.

This project will examine the needs, coverage issues and current state of affairs of the uninsured population. Your agency has been designated to serve on the Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Health Policy, which will be responsible for oversight and evaluation of the grant activities as prescribed by the grant. The Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Health Policy will create a technical work group that will develop and analyze policy options to provide health coverage for the uninsured and make recommendations to my office. Your participation on the taskforce is integral to the success of the project.

The Division of Medicaid is the lead agency and will be convening a meeting soon. This meeting will outline the mission of the Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Health Policy according to the guidelines of the HRSA State Planning Grant. It is very important that your agency is represented. As you know, health care is a priority of my administration.

Please allow me to thank you for participating on the Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Health Policy. We look forward to working with you to address the lack of health insurance experienced by so many Mississippian's. If my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact

Wanda Smith, Health Care Policy Advisor, or you may contact the Project Director with the Division of Medicaid, Rachel Stiff, at (601) 359-6181.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE