

*Remarks for the  
Announcement of Dr. Brian Amy  
October 31, 2002*

Good afternoon. When I made my State of the State address last January, I outlined four priorities for this state – security, jobs, education and health care. Each of these priorities is part of the foundation for the other.

Healthy children will go to school ready to learn. A quality educational system means quality jobs. Quality jobs help provide the security for our people.

I believe the measure of our society is found in the way we treat our people – our children, our elderly, those who need any kind of help – and the work we do with Dr. Amy is another standard by which we will be measured.

We are committed to a healthy Mississippi. We are committed to ensuring our people have access to quality health care, that our medical services are the most effective and efficient in the nation, and that other states will look to us as the standard for building a healthy population.

Our building efforts received some more help yesterday, with the announcement of nearly \$750,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Almost \$442,000 will go toward helping small rural hospitals improve their quality and patient safety by investing in computers, software and technical assistance.

Another \$307,000 will go toward the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and training in their use for emergency personnel in rural areas.

These grants will go a long way in helping every Mississippian with the health care access they need.

To do our work successfully, it is important to rally every bit of energy toward the end goal. Partnerships provide a means of increasing this energy, and I look forward to a new partner in this effort.

Dr. Brian Amy has come to Mississippi to join that partnership. His credentials are evidence of his ability, but his energy is evidence of his dedication. He has demonstrated his skill at so many levels, and we are fortunate that he has chosen to bring those skills to Mississippi.

Let me take a moment to share some of his credentials. He earned his doctorate of medicine from LSU Medical School in New Orleans.

Other degrees include a master of science degree in microbiology, a master of public health administration degree in health systems management, and a master of public health degree in health services research.

He is licensed to practice medicine in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Texas. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

He's a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Preventive Medicine and the American College of Physician Executives.

The list goes on and on, but you get the idea.

It's been said that "without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." The care we provide for each other, and the care available throughout our state, makes for a strong community – and a healthy Mississippi.

I'm pleased that Dr. Amy is going to be part of our work together, to help us care for our community, and I'm proud to introduce him as our new State Health Officer. Dr. Amy, welcome to Mississippi.