

Ceremonial Bill Signing
House Bill 641
Banning Smoking on School Grounds and at school events
Tuesday, May 23, 2000
4:00 p.m.
Capitol Steps

Behind you will be students from the organization Frontline along with Mike Moore, Dr. Thompson and any legislators that are present.

Agenda

- I. Governor to make comments
- II. Governor to sign bill
- III. Governor to hand signed bill to students
- IV. Student/s will say a few words
- V. Governor will close the bill signing and open the floor for questions

Talking Points

- Every day, more than 3, 000 young Americans become regular tobacco users. Our country has invested millions into tobacco control programs to reduce this number. Today, we are here to celebrate the efforts of Mississippi's teens whose efforts helped to pass a bill banning tobacco use on school grounds.
- For months, we have asked our youth to refuse tobacco, yet they continue to be surrounded by a culture that is dominated with tobacco use. Our role models, teachers and parents send conflicting messages when they tell youth that tobacco use is bad while they themselves continue to smoke. The teens involved in Frontline have sent us a message – not only are

they listening to us, they are acting on our messages.

- The passing of House Bill 641 would not have been possible without the efforts of the teens involved in Frontline, a youth advocacy organization supported through the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi. The Frontline teens organized events to work with their peers, teachers and legislators across the state to earn support for House Bill 641. They testified at committee hearings, followed-up with both supporters and non-supporters to gain support for the bill.
- House Bill 641 marks the first step toward changing a culture dominated by tobacco use. This bill marks the first teen-led passage of legislation banning tobacco use on school grounds.
- Mississippi is paving the way for youth-led tobacco-free advocacy initiatives. Their efforts demonstrate the importance of changing a culture through policy changes. We are now one step closer to supporting behavior changes with substantial policy changes for our youth.

- Thanks and credit goes to Frontline, teachers across the state who supported the bill, Attorney General Mike Moore, many state Legislators, the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi and Community Partners across the state.
- I am pleased today to sign House Bill 641.
- Sign the bill.
- Hand the bill to the student/s and shake his hand.
- Student will speak.
- You will step forward and thank everyone for coming and say.....
- We are now available for any questions you may have.