

Remarks for
Mississippi Chiropractic Fall Convention
November 15, 2003

- Recognize:
 - Dr. Mark Ballard (person introducing you) and everyone here today

- It is a pleasure to be here today surrounded by doctors/people of this great state who care so deeply about the health and well being of all Mississippians just as I do

- Someone once said, “He who has health, has hope: and he who has hope, has everything.”

- This is profound because healthy adults/parents are ready, willing, and geared up in the morning as they go to work and earn a living for their families

- And, as a result children are healthier and happier and go to school ready to learn

- As Governor I have fought to improve the quality of life for Mississippians by focusing on health care, education, and job creation

- Public schools are the cornerstones of our communities
 - the key to a successful economy

- Good schools / lead to good jobs / good jobs lead to better communities / good communities lead to an even better Mississippi

- Some states are not willing to invest in education, but Mississippi isn't one of them

- Historic action of fully funding education first
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized this when he said, “the school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize”
- That is the way it should always be
- Test Scores are improving
 - With our State Accountability system, more than 80% of Mississippi public schools have achieved a rating of Level 3/ Successful or higher
 - Under the federal NCLB accountability system, 50% of MS schools met the Adequate Yearly Progress Requirements
 - NCLB score: Alabama – 33%, Delaware – 43%, Tennessee – 53%, and Florida 13%

- Some other milestones we have accomplished concerning education in Mississippi include
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th / when fully implemented
 - Computers in the Classroom
 - 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - Princeton Review: Mississippi has 12th best testing system in nation
 - Mississippi is 6th in nation in National Board Certified Teachers
- Mississippi has its priorities straight
 - Educating and investing in our children today for dividends tomorrow

- Children in this state are our most valuable resource
 - They may only be 1/3 of our population, but they are **ALL** of our future

- My parents always taught us the importance of having a good education
 - It can take you anywhere/ it can open any door
 - With a good education there are no limits to what **YOU** can accomplish

- I'm a living testament to that
 - I'm from a town many of you probably have never heard of (TELL YOUR STORY)
 - Yet, I became a senator (first made education a priority), Lt. Governor and now Governor
 - I am an example of someone who is living the American Dream/ the Mississippi Dream

- We cannot stop by just educating our children though, there has to be continued economic growth to keep our best and brightest minds here in Mississippi
 - They are Mississippi's future
 - We have to leave them a state with a solid economic base

- Over the last four years that is what I have worked for
 - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 56,000 new jobs
 - Home to Nissan the only automotive plant to open this year in the United States
 - Total investment in Mississippi nearly \$15 billion

- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know or could have ever imagined
 - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - Competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - Setting new standards for education and economic development

- Thank you for inviting me and I hope your conference is a success

