

*Remarks for the
“Month of the Child” Press Conference
April 5, 2002*

Janice, thank you. We’re here today to stand for the young, the innocent and the future – the children of Mississippi.

As the father of two children, I know there is nothing more precious than our young people. They are our most wonderful natural resource and are most deserving of our strongest commitment to their future.

In my State of the State address, I outlined four priorities for Mississippi – jobs, education, health care and public safety.

These priorities affect all Mississippians, but none more so than our children. We've made great progress and found common ground to make these priorities into realities – and that's something for us to be proud of.

But, there's so much more we can and will do.

It has been said that “every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.” We have an obligation to heed that message – for ourselves and generations to come.

I am proud to stand here today for the children of Mississippi. I have a proclamation I want to read to you, and I hope it will be heard and remembered around the state.

(read proclamation, hand original to Janice)