

Infant Morality Task Force
Press Conference
Friday, January 26, 2001
10:00 a.m.
2nd Floor Capitol Rotunda

Talking Points

- Good Morning
- Thank you for joining me here today.
- The death of one child, is one too many.
- The infant mortality rate in MS has remained steady for the past two years.
 - 436 infants under the age of one in 1998
 - 435 in 1999
- The 1998 rate of 10.2 deaths per 1000 live births is the lowest rate since 1917.
- The infant mortality rate in MS is decreasing, as it is also in the U.S.
- I would like to thank Dr. Ed Thompson for his leadership and hard work with the Dept. of Health.
- Despite MS's improvements, we still lag behind most other states in its reduction of infant mortality, low birth weight rate and births to teens.
- Introduce Mississippi Infant Mortality Task Force Members:
 - Nell McCormack
 - Vicki Bingham
 - John Holland
 - Martha Williams
 - Dr. Dean Cromartie
 - Fredrick May
 - William Roberts
 - Beverly Hogan
 - Dr. Edward Ivancic
 - Senator Bunky Huggins
 - Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
 - Representative Bobby Moody
 - Representative Mary Coleman
 - Barbara Rayburn

- Hazel Gaines
 - Robert Pugh
 - Patty Appleton Fultz
 - Dr. Glen Graves
 - Tanya Britton
 - Joyce Vaughn
 - Dr. Gerri Cannon-Smith
 - Dr. Marilyn Graves
 - Dr. Marianne Zotti
 - Pat Terry
 - Beatrice Ezem
 - Melinda Bush
 - Debbie Hammack
- These members have been dedicated and determined in their mission to improve major health concerns for Mississippi's infants.
 - They have worked to improve the health status of mothers and infants, and I commend them for the gains they have made.
 - I am here today to urge Legislators to reauthorize the Infant Mortality Task Force.
 - Mississippi must continue to improve in the health care for our people, and this task force is an essential key to our success.
 - We must continue to look for new ways, and more ways, to prevent infant deaths.
 - I would like to Thank Representative Ford and Senator Huggins for their leadership in reauthorizing the Infant Mortality Task Force.
 - Mississippi needs healthy children and healthy adults to create a stronger and better Mississippi.
 - I urge all Legislators to join us in this fight to improve the health of Mississippi's babies.
 - Thank you.