

*Governor Ronnie Musgrove
Remarks for the
MADD Press Conference
April 3, 2002*

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

Today, we've taken another major step in protecting our people. On March 18, I signed into law Senate Bill 2848 – and I believe we'll see the results in short order.

By lowering the Blood Alcohol Level for driving under the influence to .08, we are taking an aggressive stand against those individuals who make the decision to get behind the wheel of a car and endanger innocent people.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak to a crowd of Mississippi teenagers who are making the right decision about alcohol, tobacco and other harmful substances.

Those teenagers represent our future and our potential – and that's one reason I signed this bill into law. We are obligated to protect our children and all Mississippians.

It's also a reason I vetoed House Bill 1171, which would have increased the alcoholic percentage of certain beverages. It is important to be consistent in our efforts to protect the people of this state.

The bottom line is this – the people of Mississippi want safe roads for travel.

They want to know their families and friends can drive with the confidence that we are working to keep dangerous and impaired drivers off the road.

Last year, we saw a dramatic decrease in the loss of life on roads covered by the Mississippi Highway Patrol. This time next year, I want us to be here talking about how many more lives were saved because we took aggressive action to stop drunk driving in Mississippi.

We've talked a lot about the auto industry moving into Mississippi, and along the way I've learned a few new things. One thing I've always known, however – it takes thousands of bolts to put a car together, and only one nut to scatter it all over the road.

I want Mississippi to achieve the promise of its potential, and doing that requires the talent, the work, and the skill of all Mississippians.

On July 1, our roads will be safer, more lives will be lived out, and our state will be a better place to live. Thank you.