

*Remarks for the  
Mississippi Alliance for Prevention Press Conference  
May 21, 2002*

Good afternoon. Dr. Hendrix, Dr. Getty, Ms. Crump, distinguished guests – thank you for being here today.

Too often, we see stories in the paper about drugs and alcohol and the often tragic consequences of their abuse. OxyContin, crystal meth, ecstasy are just some of the drugs finding their way into our children. Cheaper and easier to obtain, alcohol's effect can be just as tragic.

Today we are announcing a new program – the Mississippi Alliance for Prevention – to address substance abuse prevention among the young people of our state.

With the backing of a \$3 million State Incentive Grant through the Department of Health and Human Services, we are going to take our efforts to protect our children from the scourge of alcohol and drug abuse to the next level.

The grant funding for the program will last for three years, and will be used to support planning and strategies for getting our message out statewide. We worked hard to secure the funding for this program. Now, we're going to secure results.

My office is leading the way in this effort, with support from the MAP Advisory Council, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, and staff from DREAM. I have appointed 42 members to the council, representing state and non-profit agencies with experience in this area.

I expect them to use the best of their expertise in this program. When that expertise is combined with the support of Dr. Randy Hendrix and Dr. Patricia Getty, I am confident in the results we will see.

It's been said that our children are the message we send to a time we won't see. I want that message to arrive safely – and that's the driving force behind the Mississippi Alliance for Prevention.

I appreciate the work of the members of the MAP Advisory Council, of Dr. Hendrix, Dr. Getty and Glenda Crump. Together, we are going to get this job done.

Thank you.