

*Remarks for the  
Friends of Mississippi State Hospital  
Legislative Breakfast  
January 22, 2002*

Thank you, Randy, and thank you all for the opportunity to be with you today.

I appreciate the energy and effort you are bringing to the issues of the 2002 session. Your commitment to health issues, and specifically to mental health, makes a difference in the lives of so many people.

I want you to know I share that commitment with you. Last July, I announced the creation of the Governor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities.

Dr. Hendrix is a member of that Commission, which will work to develop a system for program planning and advocacy on behalf of individuals with physical, mental and developmental disabilities.

Their work will have an impact on this session and those in years to come, and I appreciate the dedication of all those serving on the commission.

The health of our people is part of the foundation of our success as a state. I want to make sure that foundation is strong.

I've unveiled a health care proposal to address the needs of our people, and I'm excited about what it offers for them.

We have worked hard on this proposal and legislation has been introduced on it. With your help, we can get it passed and continue making a difference in the lives of the people of Mississippi.

The future for this state is strong, but only as strong as we can keep it. To be successful, we have to be strong mentally and physically.

I know we can do it, and I look forward to working with you to make it happen.

Thank you.