

Ceremonial Bill Signing  
Senate Bill # \_\_\_\_  
Medicaid Upper Payment Limits  
Tuesday, February 27, 2001  
3:30 p.m.  
Capital Rotunda – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Talking Points**

- Good Afternoon
- Congress' Balanced Budget Act of 1997 contained cuts that hit Mississippi hard and had a negative impact on rural healthcare in our state.
- Over a 5-year period, we lost almost a billion dollars of badly needed funding.
- The Mississippi Hospital Association (MHA) has identified a federal program that will result in additional revenue for hospitals that provide health care services to the poor and indigent.
- The Medicare Upper Payment Limits Program dramatically increases the funding necessary to provide hospital care for the state's poor and indigent.
- It will help Mississippi hospitals work with the massive budget cuts implemented by Congress.
- The program depends on a hospital fee to operate, so it will have no affect on the state's General Fund.

- The passing of Senate Bill \_\_\_\_, would not have been possible without the combined efforts of the House and the Senate.
- The Mississippi Hospital Association and the Division of Medicaid have worked to identify federal programs that will help create a better quality of life for all Mississippians.
- Senate Bill \_\_\_\_ provides another opportunity for us to create an even better Mississippi.
- Better healthcare coverage is one of your major concerns; therefore, better healthcare coverage is one our main priorities.
- I am please today to sign Senate Bill \_\_\_\_.
- (Sign the bill)
- We are now available for any questions you may have.