

Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians
Friday, July 21, 2000
12:00 p.m.
Beau Rivage

This is strictly healthcare related. I don't think it would hurt to throw in a bit about economic development.

Opening

1. It is a pleasure to be here
2. I appreciate the opportunity to talk with you
3. Story

Intro

Sound, solid healthcare is vital to a good quality of life for the people of Mississippi!!

1. You have heard me talk about healthcare in Mississippi
 - a. There are positives
 - b. There are challenges we continue to face
 - c. We are making progress

Main Points

1. CHIP
 - a. In May of this year we introduced a new plan of action and advertising plan that

would help us provide and enroll thousands of children of working families for insurance that they could not otherwise afford.

- b. Through the Mississippi Health Benefits Program we are aggressively reaching out to the people of Mississippi and we are getting help from our hospitals, libraries and schools and businesses across the state who want to help us help our children and working families.
- c. We have made great progress in a short time frame.
- d. We have seen an enrollment increase of more than 1500%.
- e. We continue to look for opportunities and partnerships that will help us move even faster.

2. Balanced Budget Act of '97

- a. Enormous negative impact on rural healthcare
- b. Washington may be pulling up stakes and heading for the big cities, but we are sticking by our small towns and rural communities and hospitals
- c. We won't let Washington forget about Mississippi's hospitals and the people they serve.

3. Medical Education Scholarship Program
 - a. Promotes physicians practicing in areas of critical need in our state.
 - b. Provides up to 20 new recipients each year with a full scholarship to obtain a medical education at Univ. of MS School of Medicine
 - c. Will provide medical assistance to Mississippians in rural areas
 - d. Also provides opportunities to students who before could not enter the healthcare field because of financial barriers.

4. Medicaid Director and Medical Care Advisory Committee
 - a. Rica Lewis Payton – broad range of management skills and work experience with a diverse population in the medical field. Has a positive vision for Medicaid
 - b. Advisory members – work with and advise the Director of Medicaid
 - i. Dr. Barbara Smith - Southaven
 - ii. Dr. Briggs Hopson – Vicksburg
 - iii. Carol Smith – Meridian
 - iv. Marilyn Speed – McComb
 - v. Dr. Steven Stogner - Hattiesburg

- c. Members are at the top of their profession and know the healthcare needs of Mississippians.
5. Mississippi Trauma Care System
- a. Trauma Center designations (Briggs Hopson, vital role)
 - i. Lives will be improved because of the designation
 - ii. Role of the centers is important as we further develop top rated healthcare options for the people of Mississippi.

Closing

1. Must make changes that are sensible and accountable for the people of MS.
2. There are no quick fixes, but we are working to find responsible approaches to making healthcare options better for the people of Mississippi.