

**“MISSISSIPPI MINUTE” SCRIPT**      **(Andy Martin – 957-8877)**

I BELIEVE THE MEASURE OF OUR SOCIETY IS FOUND IN HOW WE TREAT THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP THE MOST. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE COMMITMENT WE MAKE TO MEET THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE MAY BE THE HIGHEST STANDARD BY WHICH OUR SOCIETY IS REMEMBERED.

WE’VE BEEN WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE MISSISSIPPI’S MEDICAID PROGRAM IS ADEQUATELY FUNDED, SO CRITICAL SERVICES SUCH AS NURSING HOMES AND DIALYSIS COULD CONTINUE.

MY REQUEST TO THE LEGISLATURE WAS SIMPLE. FUND MEDICAID AT A LEVEL OF \$425 MILLION AND PROVIDE THE FLEXIBILITY TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM, AND WE’LL RUN IT FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS WITHOUT ASKING FOR ANY INCREASES IN FUNDING.

THE BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE 2004 FISCAL YEAR HAS BEEN SUBMITTED, AT A LEVEL OF \$425 MILLION. WITH THE COST-CUTTING CHARGES ALREADY MADE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR MORE, THIS BUDGET IS REASONABLE IN LIGHT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO DETERMINE THE MEASURE OF OUR SOCIETY. IT’S AN OPPORTUNITY WE CAN’T AFFORD TO MISS.

I’M RONNIE MUSGROVE, AND THIS HAS BEEN THE MISSISSIPPI MINUTE. THANKS FOR LISTENING.