

After three weeks of negotiations on medical malpractice, the Legislature has adjourned until October 7. The Legislature has adjourned for now. The crisis in health care doesn't have that option.

In May, I said I would call a special session to address the issue of the affordability and availability of medical malpractice insurance. This issue goes much farther than the doctor's office; it affects every Mississippian in every community in our state.

Unfortunately, nothing has changed since May.

**Political agendas and special interests have had too large an impact on the negotiations between House and Senate conferees over medical malpractice legislation.**

The entire process has been frustrating. Unfortunately, that's sometimes how the legislative process works. It is slow, it is ugly, and it doesn't always work the way we would hope it would.

However, this issue is about the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for 2.8 million Mississippians. We must focus on what is best for our people and solve this health care crisis.

There's a challenge before us here, and we must not shy away from this challenge.

The health care crisis in Mississippi continues.