

## **HEALTH CARE**

### ***MEDICAID:***

- The effects of the national recession have been felt in many ways. One of those areas is in Medicaid. The increased cost of prescription drugs as well as slow economic growth have put a strain on Medicaid funding at a state level. I have been working through the NGA for more flexibility and increased funding from Washington.
- However, one of the best ways we can continue to ease the Medicaid budget is by increase economic growth. Our focus on brining quality jobs and quality education to Mississippi is the long-term answer to the Medicaid issue.

### ***TOBACCO TRUST FUND***

- Mississippi has led the nation from the start on the settlement with the Tobacco Companies.
- Unlike some of our sister states (TN) we have not depleted our Trust Fund to pay for everyday expenses, despite the challenges that face us with the National Recession.
- We currently have over \$600 million in our Trust Fund.
- Protecting our Trust Fund is important for the future health of our state.