

## **POINTS FOR CAPITAL PRESS CORPS:**

### Budget:

- We can't allow our promise to be put at risk by allowing our budget to be built on false hope.
- Wednesday's cuts are the result of the failure of the legislature to set priorities and use real numbers in the budget.
- Outraged and disappointed cuts had to be made / we had no choice – by law
- We must plan and prioritize
- Exemption of the legislature – We must all tighten our belts during this national recession. Families, businesses, schools, state agencies and state employees are having to watch their money and prioritize.

### Budget – EDUCATION:

- Almost \$63 million cut from public education
- This demonstrates a lack of planning and prioritizing by the legislature.
- House page from Hattiesburg going to college in Virginia – “education always seems be last in Mississippi”
- Education must be a priority to recruit jobs for Mississippi

### Tort reform:

- Legislature has talked about reforming the system for over a year now
- Unfortunate some type of consensus couldn't be reached

### HB - Rainy Day Fund Money for Education – (*INTRODUCED YET??*)

- Obviously, the legislators that introduced this bill recognize the destructive impact of the recent cuts to our education system and to the future of our state.
- Again, this is why prioritizing and planning is so vitally important.
- We must learn our lesson and be responsible to Mississippians by setting priorities and budgeting for the future.