

Senate Bill 2501 Signing  
Monday, April 16, 2001  
2:30 p.m.  
Capitol Rotunda – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **Talking Points**

- Good Afternoon
- In Mississippi, we value our senior adults.
- All Mississippians deserve respect and protection.
- Many times our elderly population does not receive the attention they need from their families, their communities or their state.
- Mississippi has over 336,000 residents that are 65 or older – this is about 12% of our population.
- We are here today to make improvements in the lives of our senior adults.
- Senate Bill 2501 defines prohibitions on the investigation of protective services regarding residents or patients in a care facility.

- This bill more clearly defines criminal penalties for the abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- We must take advantage of every option to help protect our mothers, our father, our friends – the people who helped make us who we are today.
- They are an integral part of our society, and we can still learn a lot from these wise men and women.
- The bill also directs the Department of Human Services to conduct criminal history record checks on new applicants for employment at nursing facilities, who will provide direct care.
- We are working to improve the quality of life for our elderly population.
- Paula McBay, the State President of the AARP, is here to say a few words.
- (Paula speaks)
- Thank you Paula.

- I would like to thank the members of the committee and the authors of the bill who helped bring Senate Bill 2501 to fruition.
- I would like for Senator Little to join me as I sign Senate Bill 2501.
- It is my pleasure to sign Senate Bill 2501.
- (Present ceremonial bill to \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Mississippi is providing more opportunities for a better life for our senior adults.
- We want to make to our senior adults the assurance they deserve, that they are receiving quality care in our nursing facilities.