

TALKING POINTS

If decision on Medicaid

- The Mississippi legislature has proven once again that we are in need of reform in our budgeting process. We cannot run the State of Mississippi using revenue projections that can never be achieved and one-time money that will cause a devastating budget shortfall in 2004. Families and businesses could not survive if they operated the same way as the Mississippi legislature.
- In January, I presented a budget that used real numbers, limited the use of one time money to one time expenditures, and focused on the priorities that are important to all Mississippians - Jobs, Health Care, Education, and Security.
- The Legislature has had 83 days and the only plan they have come up with is spending money that is simply not there. Also, the legislature has used over \$242 million in one-time money for reoccurring expenses.

Analogy: We would all like to buy a brand new car or a brand new boat or a brand new house. Based on what is happening here in Jackson, we could go out and buy that car without having the money in the bank. In fact, we could put a down payment on that car with a big windfall this year. What happens when that next payment is due? Where does the money come from?

- If the legislature fails to fully fund Medicaid it will be devastating to health care in the State of Mississippi. The only option left will be to cut vital services to our seniors in Nursing Homes and their Prescription Drugs. Make no mistake, of the 16,000 parents, grandparents, brothers, or sisters, or children in our nursing homes who rely on Medicaid 88% (14,000) may lose their benefits.
- The Department of Human Services has been under-funded to the point of putting our children at risk. Lets only hope and pray that it does not take a tragedy for the legislature to wake up and realize we must protect our most vulnerable citizens. (you may want to leave this out)

TALKIN POINTS
If no decision on Medicaid

- The legislature has been working on the budget for 83 days. It has come down to the future of Medicaid. If the legislature fails to fully fund Medicaid it will be devastating to health care in the State of Mississippi. The only option left will be to cut vital services to our seniors in Nursing Homes and their Prescription Drugs. Make no mistake, of the 16,000 parents or grandparents in our nursing homes who rely on Medicaid 88% (14,000) may lose their benefits. The people of Mississippi deserve to be assured that Medicaid will be funded.

- I have concerns grave concerns about the use of revenue projections that can never be achieved and one-time money that will cause a devastating budget shortfall in 2004. Families and businesses could not survive if they operated this way.

- The legislature has two options. One, fund Medicaid and give the Governor's office of Medicaid the flexibility to run the program efficiently and effectively. Two, don't fully fund a Medicaid program and make the decision now of which services to cut.