

Medicaid/MHS
Ceremonial Bill Signing
Tuesday, February 27, 2001
3:30p.m.
Capitol Rotunda

Rica's Talking Points

The massive budget cuts contained in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 hit Mississippi hard.

These cuts impacted Mississippians who could least afford it.

Now I am happy to be able stand before you to say this tide is turning.

Since this program depends on hospital fees to operate, it will have virtually no effect on the state's General Fund.

The Division of Medicaid will use the fees to draw down federal matching funds that are then returned to the hospitals in the form of enhanced reimbursement.

Because of this Medicaid Upper Payment Limits Bill, (Senate Bill 2424), we anticipate that \$90 to \$120 million dollars will be pumped back into our state's health care economy annually.

We appreciate the efforts of the Mississippi Hospital Association and the members of the legislature who overwhelmingly supported the bill.

This will substantially help our people across the state to have better access to health care options they need for themselves and for their families.