



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—January 12, 2004
CONTACT: Quinton Dickerson (601) 957-5818 or (601) 624-2563

**GOVERNOR-ELECT HALEY BARBOUR
ANNOUNCES DR. WALLACE CONERLY TO LEAD
THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID**

(Jackson, Miss.)—Today, Governor-elect Haley Barbour announced that he is appointing Dr. Wallace Conerly to lead the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. Dr. Conerly, a native of Walthall County, Mississippi will be serving as Executive Director of Medicaid on an interim basis.

Dr. Conerly retired on June 30, 2003 from serving as Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC) where he also served as Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Conerly had served as UMC's chief executive officer since August, 1994.

“Wally Conerly is a legend in health care in our state,” said Barbour. “He led UMC to a new level of national prominence and recognition. He is well-known and respected throughout the medical community in Mississippi and across the country for having championed UMC's focus on research, grants, building expansions, and the development of the Jackson Medical Mall.”

###