

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Signs Medicaid Bill**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today signed House Bill 1200, the Medicaid bailout plan.

“More than 650,000 Mississippians have been waiting on the Legislature to agree on funding for this year’s Medicaid budget. This past Monday, I asked them to send a bill to my office within 48 hours,” Musgrove said. “They responded to that request, but because of the length of time it took to get to this point, there are providers whose payments will be delayed.”

Musgrove said he signed the bill out of a need to save Medicaid but cited problems with the legislation, including the fact the bill is still \$29.5 million short in state dollars, which means \$118 million in total health care dollars; it cuts reimbursement rates to providers which can impact access for recipients; it increases the co-pay for recipients, and reduces the number of prescriptions; and, it fails to address the Medicaid budget for the 2003 fiscal year.

The current Medicaid budget for 2003, as recommended from the Legislative Budget Office, stands at \$249 million.

“Due to the Legislature’s failure to fully fund the shortfall and the 2003 Medicaid budget, we will begin immediately to review Medicaid and look for optional services to cut,” said Musgrove.

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