

## Rica's Statement Suggestion for Press Conference

10A.M.

Friday, July 12, 2001

at the Capitol Rotunda

On behalf of the Office of the Governor, Division of Medicaid I'd like to thank Sam Cameron, President of the Mississippi Hospital Association, Senator Bunky Huggins and Representative Bobby Moody for their support in establishing this important and much needed program. This initiative will provide Mississippians with better access to quality health care.

We've seen the closure of several rural hospitals in recent years. The Medicare Upper Payment Limits Program will enable Medicaid to help maintain the financial stability of hospitals providing services to our beneficiaries.