

The decision today by the Legislature to slash the funding of Medicaid by \$137 million is a devastating blow to health care for the people of Mississippi.

When you factor in the federal match this will have a \$548 million in health care services. Cuts will have to be made to vital services for our senior citizens, including Nursing Homes and Prescription Drugs.

Federal law requires that these cuts be made to services for people over 21 years of age. This means that the \$548 million in cuts must come out \$657 million in services, effectively gutting entire programs.

The Department of Medicaid will begin immediately to make these cuts.

The Legislature had an opportunity to fund Medicaid and give the Governors Office on Medicaid the flexibility to run the program effectively and efficiently. Instead, they choose to ignore the health care needs of the people of Mississippi.