

- My priorities for Mississippi are jobs, health care, education, and public safety. Today, I presented a budget plan to take care of those priorities.
- The national recession has put a strain on all of state government, not just Medicaid.
- The Health Care Trust Fund is not Mike Moore's trust fund, and it's not Ronnie Musgrove's trust fund. The money in the fund came from a lawsuit Attorney General Moore filed, and I'm quoting from the original lawsuit, "on behalf of the state and certain of its agencies, including the Medicaid Commission."
- I presented a plan today to cover the Medicaid shortfall along with a realistic budget for 2003. These plans do not touch the principal of the trust fund, and they do not raise taxes. The Attorney General apparently would rather raise taxes on hard-working Mississippians than use monies designated for their health care needs.