

Bill Signing of
Senate Bill 2501
Monday, April 16, 2001
2:30 p.m.
Capitol Office of the Governor

Talking Points

- In Mississippi we value our senior adults.
- All Mississippians deserve quality services, respect and protection.
- Many times our elderly population does not receive the attention they need from their families or communities.
- Mississippi has over 336,000 residents who are 65 years of age or older.
- That is about 12% of our state's population.
- Senate Bill 2501 helps strengthen the protection of residents or patients in a care facility.
- This bill more clearly defines criminal penalties for the abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.

- The Department of Human Services will now conduct criminal history record checks on new applicants for employment at nursing facilities, who provide direct care.
- We must use every option available to help protect our mothers, fathers and friends who helped shape our lives.
- These men and women are an integral part of our society, and we can still learn a great deal from them.
- Paula McBay, State President of AARP is with us today.
- Paula, would you like to say a few words?
- (Paula speaks)
- It is now my pleasure to sign Senate Bill 2501.
- (Hand ceremonial signed bill to Paula.)
- Mississippi is providing more opportunities for a better life for our senior adults.

- From health care services to housing, we are finding new ways to better care for our older Mississippians.
- We want to ensure that every senior adult in Mississippi has the services and security they need to enjoy a good quality of life.