

*Remarks to the
Governor's Health Care Commission
July 9, 2002*

Good afternoon. Today, I wanted to take the opportunity to simply say “thank you” for the good work you have done as members of this commission. Since our first meeting together in May, you have done tremendous work regarding the Medicaid program in Mississippi.

I said in our first meeting that the Commission's work would be exacting, it would be detailed, and it would be focused on the goal of the creating the most efficient and effective Medicaid program in the country.

I believe this report you are presenting today will be a road map to meeting that goal.

You have covered everything from prescription drugs to the structure of the health care system in Mississippi. I know this report is insightful, detailed and forward-thinking, and people across this state owe you a debt of gratitude for the work you have done.

Over 650,000 Mississippians receive health care through Medicaid – and we’re going to make sure the program continues to operate for them. We will not allow any of those Mississippians – the children, disabled or seniors – to go without adequate health care.

Again, we're all working for the same thing – the best possible health care to meet the needs of those Mississippians who need it most. You've done a great job in your work, and I thank you for it.