For Immediate Release February 15, 2002 <u>Contact</u>: Lee Ann Mayo 601-359-3227

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove released the following statement today in response to the final ruling of Judge Neal Biggers in the Ayers case:

"Today is a good day for the State of Mississippi. Through our efforts and hard work over the last eighteen months, we are able to end a lawsuit that has tied the hands of our universities for twenty-seven years. This is truly a defining moment for the State of Mississippi.

I want to commend The Speaker, the Lt. Governor, the Attorney General and the Institutions of Higher learning, along with the plaintiffs, who worked hard to reach a final agreement that is in the best interest of our state and higher education."

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