

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2002

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Governor Musgrove Offers Proposal For Medicaid Shortfall

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today offered another proposal for solving the Medicaid shortfall in Mississippi, which has grown to \$158 million. Musgrove set out a proposal on January 25 as part of his executive budget recommendation.

“My office has received calls from as close as Jackson, and as far away as North Carolina. These calls are from the elderly or individuals with family members in nursing homes, and they are rightfully worried about what’s going to happen next with Medicaid,” Musgrove said.

Musgrove’s proposal calls for amending House Bill 1379 to allow for a Revenue Anticipatory Note to fund \$119 million of the shortfall. This note would be repaid with revenue provided for in House Bill 1379, which calls for accelerated tax collections.

The balance of \$39 million would be covered by borrowing from special funds. For the plan to work, Musgrove said the Legislature must pass his Executive Budget Recommendation with its revenue estimate of 2.65 percent, with any growth over that amount used to repay the amount borrowed. Any revenue over the \$119 million used in House Bill 1379 would also be applied to this repayment.

“In addition, we need the authority to make this program work the way it’s designed. This authority would allow my office, in cooperation with Rica Lewis-Payton, to put in place measures to better manage the health care services for the people of Mississippi,” Musgrove said. “Mississippi’s Medicaid program is the most legislatively mandated program in the country. Now is the time to allow for the flexibility to make this program work more efficiently and more effectively.”

“The bottom line in all this is the health of the people of Mississippi. We are far past the point where we can afford to allow politics to affect policy. Our people deserve better,” said Musgrove.

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