

For Immediate Release

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Jackson, MS – Mississippi’s health care system is threatened by today’s action on House Bill 1794 regarding funding for the Division of Medicaid, according to Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

“The decision today by the Legislature to inadequately fund Medicaid by \$137 million is a devastating blow to health care for the people of Mississippi,” said Musgrove. “Not only will this budget negatively affect the health status of Mississippians, it will have a devastating impact on the economy of the state.”

Federal law requires these cuts to be made to services for people over 21 years of age. Such cuts, according to Medicaid Executive Director Rica Lewis-Payton, would effectively gut entire programs.

“When you factor in the federal match, this will have a \$548 million impact in health care services. Cuts will have to be made to vital services for our senior citizens, including nursing homes and prescription drugs,” Lewis-Payton said. “The Legislature had an opportunity to fund Medicaid and give us the flexibility to run the program effectively and efficiently. Instead, they chose to ignore the health care needs of the people of this state.”

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