

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Medicaid Bills Vetoed by Governor Musgrove**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today vetoed House Bill 1794, the appropriations bill for the Division of Medicaid, and Senate Bill 2189, a technical amendments bill affecting Medicaid. Musgrove had indicated late last week he was leaning toward a veto of the legislation, which will force massive cuts to nursing homes and prescription drugs.

“This bill will devastate health care for Mississippi’s elderly, disabled and children,” Musgrove said. “I have made it very clear that quality health care is a priority for Mississippi, but House Bill 1794 does not treat it as such. The people of this state deserve better.”

In an effort to reach common ground, Musgrove sent a letter today to Speaker Tim Ford and Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck which laid out his fourth proposal to protect Medicaid with an offer to back off on his veto if the Legislature provided written assurance that funds would be provided to prevent cuts. Speaker Ford responded positively, but Lieutenant Governor Tuck maintained her position in support of the legislation.

“I appreciate the commitment Speaker Ford has shown to protecting Medicaid. In the end, the real issue is not whether the Legislature sustains or overrides the veto,” said Musgrove. “The real issue is protecting our senior citizens in nursing homes and making sure people receive the prescription drugs they need.”

In his veto message, Musgrove wrote that “the Division is provided neither sufficient funding nor flexibility to operate the Medicaid program effectively. The Legislature specifies in great detail the ways in which the inadequate monies must be spent but offers no guidance where \$500 million in reductions are to be made.”

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