

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2003

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove released the following statement this morning regarding legislative action on the state budget:

“Today’s action demonstrates that when we work in the spirit of cooperation toward a common goal, it is the people of Mississippi who win.

“The national recession has challenged us over the past three years, but we’ve met that challenge without raising taxes, by cutting the fat out of state government. With this compromise, we’ve accomplished our goal of protecting our savings, and without raising taxes.

“We’ve achieved much during this session by putting schools first, and working to create more jobs for the people of Mississippi. This good work has been done in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation and compromise. I want to thank the members of the House for standing with me in my fight for fiscal responsibility. I am pleased that the Senate leadership came to the table and worked with us on this important issue.

“We now have a budget that sets education as a priority, focuses on creating quality jobs, and protects essential services such as Medicaid.”

###