

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2003

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Governor Musgrove Talks with Senator Cochran Regarding State Fiscal Relief

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove called Senator Thad Cochran to ask him for his continued support for state fiscal relief from the federal level. A plan currently before the Senate would provide total relief of \$20 billion spread out over fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

“Despite the national recession, we have been able to stay focused on the needs of the people of Mississippi without having to resort to lay-offs of state employees, reduction in state services, or increased taxes,” Musgrove said. “Like every other state, however, we are looking to the federal government for support and relief as we work to carry out the mandates handed down to us.”

Senator Charles Grassley, (R-Iowa), chairman of the Senator Finance Committee, has added language stating that relief would be used for “education or job training, health care services (including Medicaid), transportation or other infrastructure, law enforcement or public safety; and other essential government services.”

“By preparing for the impact of the recession through actions such as calling on state agencies to set aside five percent of their appropriations, we’ve weathered this difficult time,” said Musgrove. “There’s still a very real need for some type of relief, and I am working with Senator Cochran and our congressional delegation to craft a workable package.”

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