

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove: \$674,197 Grant Targeted Toward Increasing Safety Belt Use**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has announced that Mississippi has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$647,197 from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant will be used to supplement the state’s efforts to increase the usage of safety belts.

“My highest priority is for the safety of the people of Mississippi,” said Musgrove. “Wearing safety belts will most importantly save lives, and it will also reduce the amount of money spent each year on medical expenses.”

The state has received this grant in the past to promote its “Click It or Ticket” safety campaign. Safety belt usage rose dramatically as a result of this campaign, and the number of fatalities on the Mississippi’s highways saw a significant decrease.

In the award letter to Musgrove, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta praised the state’s efforts to promote safety belt use. “Your strong support and visible leadership is crucial to making Mississippi’s campaign successful. I thank you for your leadership in this lifesaving effort,” he wrote.

Safety belts reduce fatalities and serious injuries tremendously when traffic accidents occur. Studies show 25 percent of citizens do not buckle up, and this costs the nation \$26 billion yearly in medical care expenses. Mississippi plans to participate in national enforcement mobilizations this year that take place in May and November.

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