

December 31, 2000

To the Members of the Legislature and the Citizens of Mississippi:

We are pleased to submit Mississippi's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000. As the year comes to an end, Mississippi finds itself in the spotlight of the nation and the world as people take notice of the accomplishments we have made for the people of the State of Mississippi.

A quality education for all Mississippians is vital to our success. We must educate and train Mississippi's children and recruit exceptional teachers for our state. Our children demand the best education that Mississippi can provide, and this spring we passed a bill, which will raise teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average.

In May 2000, we unveiled a new plan of action to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides much needed insurance coverage to Mississippi children of working families. Because of this plan, more than 18,000 additional Mississippi children have access to healthcare, an increase of 36 times the number covered at the start of my administration.

Mississippi continues to enjoy exceptional growth and unprecedented economic development. Mississippi now, more than ever, is seeking to become a key player in the national and world economy. We are making great strides in an effort to create new, high paying job opportunities for our people.

As Mississippi enters a new century, we look forward to new opportunities. We will continue to improve education, economic development, healthcare and public safety. As Governor, I am excited about what Mississippi has to offer the nation and the world.

We will continue to work together to make Mississippi an even better place to live, work and visit.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE