Remarks for
Mississippi Chiropractic Fall Convention
November 15, 2003

Recognize:
- Dr. Mark Ballard (person introducing you) and everyone here today

It is a pleasure to be here today surrounded by doctors/people of this great state who care so deeply about the health and well being of all Mississippians just as I do

Someone once said, “He who has health, has hope: and he who has hope, has everything.”

This is profound because healthy adults/parents are ready, willing, and geared up in the morning as they go to work and earn a living for their families

And, as a result children are healthier and happier and go to school ready to learn
As Governor I have fought to improve the quality of life for Mississippians by focusing on health care, education, and job creation.

Public schools are the cornerstones of our communities:
- the key to a successful economy

Good schools lead to good jobs; good jobs lead to better communities; good communities lead to an even better Mississippi.

Some states are not willing to invest in education, but Mississippi isn’t one of them.
Historic action of fully funding education first

- Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized this when he said, “the school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize”

That is the way it should always be

Test Scores are improving

- With our State Accountability system, more than 80% of Mississippi public schools have achieved a rating of Level 3/ Successful or higher
- Under the federal NCLB accountability system, 50% of MS schools met the Adequate Yearly Progress Requirements
- NCLB score: Alabama – 33%, Delaware – 43%, Tennessee – 53%, and Florida 13%
Some other milestones we have accomplished concerning education in Mississippi include

- Teacher pay / 49th to 19th / when fully implemented
- Computers in the Classroom
- 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
- Princeton Review: Mississippi has 12th best testing system in nation
- Mississippi is 6th in nation in National Board Certified Teachers

Mississippi has its priorities straight

- Educating and investing in our children today for dividends tomorrow
Children in this state are our most valuable resource
  o They may only be 1/3 of our population, but they are ALL of our future

My parents always taught us the importance of having a good education
  o It can take you anywhere/ it can open any door
  o With a good education there are no limits to what YOU can accomplish
I’m a living testament to that

○ I’m from a town many of you probably have never heard of (TELL YOUR STORY)

○ Yet, I became a senator (first made education a priority), Lt. Governor and now Governor

○ I am an example of someone who is living the American Dream/ the Mississippi Dream
We cannot stop by just educating our children though, there has to be continued economic growth to keep our best and brightest minds here in Mississippi
  - They are Mississippi’s future
  - We have to leave them a state with a solid economic base

Over the last four years that is what I have worked for
  - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
  - More than 56,000 new jobs
  - Home to Nissan the only automotive plant to open this year in the United States
  - Total investment in Mississippi nearly $15 billion
Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know or could have ever imagined

- Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
- Competing and leading in the global marketplace
- Setting new standards for education and economic development

Thank you for inviting me and I hope your conference is a success