

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO EXPAND THE CALL OF
2 THE SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 2004 TO INCLUDE LEGISLATION
3 THAT WILL REINSTATE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR THE POVERTY LEVEL
4 AGED AND DISABLED (PLAD) GROUP.

5 WHEREAS, the Medicaid program provides a comprehensive system
6 of health care services to approximately 720,000 Mississippians,
7 which services are vital to the health and well-being of most of
8 those individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, because of the significant budgetary pressures
10 before and during the 2004 Regular Session of the Legislature, the
11 Executive Branch proposed, as a cost-saving measure, to remove
12 Medicaid eligibility for the 65,000 individuals in the Poverty
13 Level Aged and Disabled (PLAD) group, which would leave most of
14 them covered only by the federal Medicare program; and

15 WHEREAS, during the waning days of the 2004 session
16 primarily, in order to prevent the repeal of the Division of
17 Medicaid, the House of Representatives reluctantly agreed to
18 remove the PLADs from Medicaid eligibility on July 1, 2004, after
19 authorizing the division to seek federal waivers to cover the
20 5,000 PLADs not eligible for Medicare and 13,000 other chronically
21 ill PLADs; and

22 WHEREAS, although most of the PLADs are covered under
23 Medicare, Medicare provides very limited coverage for prescription
24 drugs until January 1, 2006, so their loss of Medicaid eligibility
25 this year will significantly restrict their ability to obtain the
26 essential and life-giving prescription drugs that they need; and

27 WHEREAS, the Governor announced this week that he is
28 administratively delaying the removal of the PLADs from Medicaid

29 until September 15, 2004, to provide more time to inform them and
30 help them with the upcoming changes, but that short-term approach
31 will not solve the problem that the PLADs will have in obtaining
32 their prescription drugs through the end of 2005; and

33 WHEREAS, although the state will be required to remove the
34 PLADs from Medicaid eligibility by January 1, 2006, or pay the
35 total cost of their prescription drug coverage with state funds,
36 we believe that this group of low income elderly and disabled
37 individuals should be kept on the Medicaid rolls at the present
38 time, because of the great hardship that will be imposed on them
39 by the very limited prescription drug coverage under Medicare
40 until January 2006:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
42 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we request the
43 Governor to expand the call of the Second Extraordinary Session of
44 2004 to include legislation that will reinstate Medicaid
45 eligibility for the Poverty Level Aged and Disabled (PLAD) group.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
47 provided to Governor Haley Barbour and to members of the Capitol
48 Press Corps.