

By: Senator(s) Walls

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2359

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REFUSAL TO RENDER NECESSARY MEDICAL  
2 CARE TO AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OR HIS FAMILY, EMPLOYEES OR EMPLOYEES'  
3 FAMILIES SHALL BE A MISDEMEANOR UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) A medical provider shall be guilty of a  
7 misdemeanor who refuses or threatens to refuse necessary medical  
8 care to an elected official, employee of an elected official,  
9 family member of an elected official, or family member of an  
10 elected official's employee based on the elected official's public  
11 position or vote on a political issue when there is no medically  
12 justifiable reason for refusal of medical care and no economic  
13 inability to pay on the part of the person being refused  
14 treatment.

15 (2) For the purposes of this section, "medical provider"  
16 means a hospital, clinic, institution for aged or infirm,  
17 physician, osteopath, dentist, nurse, nurse practitioner,  
18 physician assistant, psychologist, podiatrist, optometrist,  
19 chiropractor, pharmacist or pharmacy.

20 (3) A person found guilty of a misdemeanor under this  
21 section shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand  
22 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30)  
23 days, or both.

24 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
25 and after July 1, 2005.