

By: Senator(s) Burton, Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Chassaniol, Clarke, Dearing, Frazier, Harden, Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jordan, King, Lee (35th), Lee (47th), Morgan, Posey, Thames, White

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3024
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL
2 CENTER TO CREATE A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE TO PROVIDE CARE FOR ABUSED
3 AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AT THE BLAIR E. BATSON HOSPITAL FOR
4 CHILDREN IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI; TO AUTHORIZE THE CENTER TO
5 CONDUCT MAJOR RESEARCH INITIATIVES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT AND
6 CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND TELE-MEDICINE CONSULTATIONS; TO
7 CREATE A CHILD ABUSE REFERRAL AND EXAMINATION (CARE) CLINIC FUND
8 FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS RETURNED TO THE STATE BY THE MISSISSIPPI
9 CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER TO BE APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE
10 FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CENTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The University of Mississippi Medical Center
13 is authorized and empowered to establish a Center of Excellence
14 (Center) to provide care for abused and neglected children at the
15 Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children located in Jackson,
16 Mississippi, where suspected victims of child maltreatment
17 referred by the Department of Human Services or law enforcement
18 will receive comprehensive physical examinations conducted by
19 medical professionals who specialize in child maltreatment. The
20 University of Mississippi Medical Center shall promulgate such
21 rules, regulations and policies as may be necessary and desirable
22 to carry out the programs of the Center. The Center shall serve
23 as a resource for the assessment and investigation of child
24 maltreatment.

25 (2) The Department of Pediatrics may use the Center for
26 educational and outreach programs, tele-medicine consultations, to
27 develop satellite clinics in other locations in the state in
28 cooperation with the local community or private hospital when
29 applicable, and to conduct major research initiatives in child
30 maltreatment.

31 (3) The Center of Excellence shall provide services to
32 maltreated children and comply with national certification
33 standards as necessary to provide services to the Department of
34 Human Services, the youth courts and law enforcement officers.

35 (4) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special
36 fund to be known as the Child Abuse Referral and Examination
37 (CARE) Clinic fund. The State Treasurer shall transfer into said
38 special fund any funds returned to the State Treasury by the MCI
39 WorldCom Settlement by the Mississippi Children's Justice Center
40 pursuant to agreement with the State Auditor. The University of
41 Mississippi Medical Center shall expend funds pursuant to
42 appropriation therefor by the Legislature for the support and
43 maintenance of the Center. The University of Mississippi Medical
44 Center is authorized to accept any and all grants, donations or
45 matching funds from private public or federal sources in order to
46 add to, improve and enlarge the physical facilities of the Center
47 and to expend any such funds for the support and maintenance of
48 the Center.

49 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after its passage.