

By: Representatives Morris, To: Rules
Holland, Eaton, Akins,
Bailey, Barnett, Blackmon,
Broomfield, Brown, Burnett,
Calhoun, Clark, Clarke,
Coleman (65th), Espy, Fillingane, Flaggs, Fleming, Formby, Franks,
Gadd, Gibbs, Harrison, Hines, Ishee, Markham, Martinson,
Masterson, Mayo, McCoy, Miles, Moak, Moore, Moss, Myers, Parker,
Peranich, Perkins, Pierce, Reed, Reynolds, Robinson (63rd), Rogers
(14th), Scott, Smith (27th), Smith (39th), Staples, Stevens,
Stringer, Sullivan, Taylor, Warren, Watson, Whittington, Woods,
Young, Evans, Patterson, Bounds, Rotenberry, Thomas, Arinder,
Vince, Hudson, Turner, Fredericks, Horne, Straughter, Frierson,
Middleton, Ellis, Montgomery, Coleman (29th), Ward, Nicholson

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO EXPAND THE CALL OF
2 THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 2004 TO INCLUDE LEGISLATION
3 THAT WILL REINSTATE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR THE POVERTY LEVEL
4 AGED OR 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 legislative session, the Executive
11 Branch proposed, as a cost-saving measure, to remove the 65,000
12 individuals in the Poverty Level Aged or Disabled (PLAD) group
13 from Medicaid eligibility and move them to the federal Medicare
14 program; and

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

21 WHEREAS, although most of the PLADs will be covered under
22 Medicare, their loss of Medicaid eligibility will significantly
23 impact the availability and quality of the health care that they
24 will receive, particularly the number of vitally needed
25 prescription drugs, and most of them will face increased costs for
26 many of their health care services; and

27 WHEREAS, there will be major costs to the health care system
28 in Mississippi after the PLADs are no longer on Medicaid, because
29 many hospitals and other providers will be forced to bear the
30 health care costs not covered by Medicare for a large number of
31 those individuals; and

32 WHEREAS, although federal law will require the state to
33 remove the PLADs from Medicaid eligibility by January 2006, or pay
34 the total cost for the PLADs with state funds, we believe that
35 this group of low income elderly and disabled individuals should
36 be kept on the Medicaid rolls at the present time, because of the
37 great hardships that will be imposed on them by the transition to
38 Medicare:

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

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