

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 Sent to Governor)

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 TELEMEDICINE 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 in collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Human Services
14 and the Office of the Attorney General is authorized and empowered
15 to establish a Center of Excellence (Center), to provide care for
16 abused and neglected children at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for
17 Children located in Jackson, Mississippi, where suspected victims
18 of child maltreatment referred by the Department of Human Services
19 or law enforcement will receive comprehensive physical
20 examinations conducted by medical professionals who specialize in
21 child maltreatment. The University of Mississippi Medical Center
22 shall promulgate such policies as may be necessary and desirable
23 to carry out the programs of the Center. The Center shall serve
24 as a resource for the assessment, investigation and prosecution of
25 child maltreatment. The Center shall work in collaboration with
26 the Office of the Attorney General, the Mississippi Department of
27 Human Services and other such state agencies and entities that
28 provide services to children, to ensure that CARE Clinic services
29 are provided in a uniform fashion throughout the state.

30 (2) The Department of Pediatrics may use the Center for
31 educational and outreach programs, telemedicine consultations, to

32 develop satellite clinics in other locations in the state in
33 cooperation with the local community or private hospital when
34 applicable, and to conduct major research initiatives in child
35 maltreatment.

36 (3) The Center of Excellence shall provide services to
37 maltreated children and comply with national certification
38 standards as necessary to provide services to the Department of
39 Human Services, the youth courts, state child advocacy centers,
40 District Attorney's Offices and law enforcement agencies.

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

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after its passage, and shall stand repealed from and after
56 July 1, 2008.