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For Immediate Release

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Education, Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Package Good for Mississippi

Nearly \$250 million available for health care, education

JACKSON – The recent state fiscal relief legislation passed by the U.S. Senate provides for nearly a quarter of a billion dollars for the state budget. As Mississippi struggles to preserve critical levels of education, training and health care, the legislation represents an important boost for the state’s economy and its people in these difficult times.

The following money will be made available if the legislation passes the House of Representatives:

	Enhanced FMAP Extension	Education Jobs Fund	Total
Mississippi	\$151,429,000	\$98,147,000	\$249,576,000
Source: Federal Funds Information for the States			

“With teachers losing their jobs and class sizes increasing, pulling down these resources should be a top priority for the state” said Ed Sivak, Director of the Mississippi Economic Policy Center. “The worst thing we could do now is leave this money on the table.”

While questions remain about how to pull the funds down without moving money from other state services, Mississippi should explore all options, such as the use of reserves and new money made available by the legislation, to pull down these important federal resources while implementing a balanced approach that will position the state for prosperity when good times return.

About MEPC

The Mississippi Economic Policy Center is an independent, nonpartisan initiative that undertakes rigorous and timely analysis on issues that affect the economic and social well being of working families and low-wealth Mississippians. MEPC is managed by the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD), a regional financial institution and community development intermediary dedicated to strengthening communities, building assets and improving lives in economically distressed areas across the Mid South.

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