

March 5, 2003

The Henry Toll Fellowship Committee
Allison Spurrier, Program Coordinator
The Council of State Government
2760 Research Park Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Dear Ms. Spurrier:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Rica Lewis-Payton to participate in the Council of State Government's 2003 Henry Toll Fellowship Program. As the Executive Director of Mississippi Division of Medicaid, Rica works tirelessly to protect critical healthcare services to our most vulnerable citizens. In response to the national recession, Rica and her staff have initiated multiple cost-containment measures with minimal loss of services. Under her leadership, administrative costs at the Division of Medicaid are currently 2.1% of overall state general fund expenditures, one of the lowest in the nation.

Rica has a good working relationship with State Legislators, State Agency Heads, and her colleagues in other states. I can think of no one more deserving of this nomination than Rica.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Wanda Smith in my office at (601) 359-9288 or you may contact Ms. Lewis-Payton directly at (601) 359 9562.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE