From: Katherine Patterson, Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Mississippi Senate Race Within Single Digits; Medicaid Expansion Popular Among Mississippi Voters

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds the Senate race in Mississippi within single digits between incumbent Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith and her Democratic challenger Mike Espy. Senator Hyde-Smith leads Espy by 8 points (49-41), but is earning less than 50% of the vote among Mississippians overall, and fewer than half (44%) approve of her job performance. Meanwhile, Espy has potential for growth where Hyde-Smith performs poorly, especially among African American voters and women.

- 78% of African American voters support Espy and 64% hold a favorable opinion of him, while just 15% support Hyde-Smith. She is also underwater on approval by 35 points (54-19).

- Espy leads among women by 4 points (46-42) and a plurality (43-32) hold a favorable opinion of him.

Other key findings in the survey include:

- A majority of voters (57%) support expanding Medicaid in their state to provide health care coverage to 200,000 Mississippians, while just 22% are opposed.

- Medicaid expansion is popular among majorities of Democrats (91-4), women (64-16), and African American voters (86-8), and a plurality of independents (47-22).

- President Trump’s approval rating in Mississippi is just 52%.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 871 Mississippi voters from May 27-28, 2020. The margin of error is +/- 3.3%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone, and 50% by text message.
Mississippi Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Donald Trump’s job performance?
   Approve .............................................................. 52%
   Disapprove .......................................................... 41%
   Not sure ............................................................... 7%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith’s job performance?
   Approve .............................................................. 44%
   Disapprove .......................................................... 31%
   Not sure ............................................................... 24%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Espy?
   Favorable ............................................................. 38%
   Unfavorable .......................................................... 36%
   Not sure ............................................................... 26%

Q4 If the election for US Senate were held today, and the candidates were Democrat Mike Espy and Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith, who would you vote for?
   Mike Espy ............................................................. 41%
   Cindy Hyde-Smith .................................................. 49%
   Not sure ............................................................... 10%

Q5 Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Mississippi, which would provide health care coverage to 200,000 Mississippians?
   Support ............................................................... 57%
   Oppose ............................................................... 22%
   Not sure ............................................................... 21%

Q6 In the 2016 election for President, did you vote for Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Hillary Clinton, someone else, or did you not vote in the election?
   Donald Trump ....................................................... 55%
   Hillary Clinton ...................................................... 39%
   Someone else / Did not vote ................................. 6%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
   Woman ............................................................... 53%
   Man ................................................................. 47%

Q8 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent, press 3.
   Democrat ......................................................... 39%
   Republican ......................................................... 43%
   Independent ...................................................... 17%

Q9 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.
   White ............................................................... 60%
   African-American ............................................... 35%
   Other ............................................................... 5%

Q10 If you are 18-29 years old, press 1. If 30-45, press 2. If 46-65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.
   18 to 29 .............................................................. 13%
   30 to 45 ............................................................. 24%
   46 to 65 ............................................................. 35%
   Older than 65 ...................................................... 28%

Q11 What is the highest level of education you have received: high school graduate or less, some college but did not finish, 2-year college degree, 4-year college degree, or post-graduate degree?
   High school graduate or less ......................... 44%
   Some college but did not finish ...................... 24%
   2-year college degree .................................... 10%
   4-year college degree .................................... 12%
   Post-graduate degree .................................... 9%

Q12 Mode
   Landline .......................................................... 50%
   Text .............................................................. 50%
Q13 Media Market

Biloxi ................................................................. 10%
Columbus ............................................................. 17%
Greenwood .......................................................... 6%
Hattiesburg .......................................................... 10%
Jackson .............................................................. 32%
Memphis ............................................................. 14%
Meridian .............................................................. 5%
Other ................................................................. 6%