

June 5, 2025

Dear Lt. Governor Hosemann and Esteemed Colleagues:

RE: Announcement of Early Retirement from the Senate

After much prayerful consideration, I have made the difficult decision to retire early from my service in the Mississippi Senate. Serving the people of our great state for the past 12 years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me throughout these years, and for the many friendships and partnerships that have grown along the way.

Throughout this journey, my wife has stood faithfully beside me, offering her unwavering support. Now, it is time for me to stand beside her as she continues her meaningful work in our community. This decision reflects my desire to devote more time to my family and to explore new ways to continue serving both our community and our state.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the opening of my Olive Branch Eyecare office. What began as one office has now grown into three locations serving patients throughout our area. Stepping away from the Senate at this time will allow me to return more fully to my practice and once again devote more time to seeing patients and supporting our staff as we continue to care for the vision and health needs of our community.

In recent days, I also experienced the loss of one of my childhood friends and one of the founding surgeons in my eyecare practice. Their passing has served as a profound reminder of the limited time we are each given, and has further reaffirmed my decision to focus more intentionally on my family and the next chapter of life.

Before concluding my service, I am pleased to share that funding has been approved for the widening of Interstate 55 between Goodman Road and Church Road. This \$119 million project is the largest state-funded road project ever awarded to DeSoto County. Securing this investment has been the result of countless hours of work and collaboration, and I am grateful to see this vital infrastructure improvement moving forward to serve our growing community for generations to come.

Although I am announcing my early retirement, I want to be clear that I will continue to fully serve and fulfill my responsibilities until the completion of the special election and the remainder of my term. My commitment to the people of Mississippi remains strong, and I will work diligently to ensure a smooth transition.

While I am stepping away from elected office, I remain committed to the values that first called me into public service. I look forward to finding new ways to contribute and make a positive impact in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership. It has been a true privilege and honor to serve.

Sincerely,

Senator Dr. David L. Parker