

January 25, 1995

Fellow Coroners:

Enclosed is a copy of the petition stating our position concerning the State Medical Examiner. We have 42 out of 82, a majority! We know that several of our fellow Coroners do not support the ME but for different reasons did not want to sign the petition, I feel that many are afraid of her as she has shown how vindictive she can be. She, at best, only has the support of about 20-25 Coroners.

We all need to be sure that a copy of this petition is given to our State Senators and Representatives. They need to see that we do not support the State ME.

In the House a bill has been filled to privatize the ME's office, House bill #1326. This bill will remove the politics of the ME's office and place it in the real world that we all must work and live in. It will make the ME's office become Accountable and responsible to those it serves, remove the political threat she has held over the Coroners, and save the State money!

We need you to call your State Representatives and ask them to #1 become co-sponsors of the bill and #2 support and vote for the bill.

It is also very important that you let your Sheriffs and District Attorneys know how you feel in this matter! Send them a copy of the petition!

Sincerely,

*M H West*  
Michael H. West

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	1-27	# of pages ▶
To	DR. WARD	From	BOB ADAMS	
Co./Dept.		Co.		
Phone #	1-601-987-	Phone #	1624-8010	
Fax #	1615	Fax #		

*Doc:*

KEEP FIGHTING!

*BOB & PAULA*

We the undersigned Coroners of the State of Mississippi, express concern and disapproval of the current Mississippi State Medical Examiner on the following points:

#1 The Failure of the State Medical Examiner to support many of the county Coroners and the death investigation system.

#2 The State Medical Examiner assisting defense council outside the scope of her office and outside the scope of her legally defined job standard.

#3 The attempt of the State Medical Examiner to establish a political power base at the expense of the elected Coroners and other elected officials.

#4 The actions of the State Medical Examiner to centralize death investigations at the State level and diminish county authority.

#5 The failure of the State Medical Examiner to cooperate with the Coroners as mandated by State Law.

COUNTY	CORONER	% DEATHS/STATE
Hinds	Robert Martin	15.9%
Lauderdale	Marl Cobbler	4.6%
Forrest	Michael West	4.1%
Jackson	David Miller	3.2%
Washington	Johnny Smith	3.1%
Jones	Joyce Perrett	2.2%
Lowndes	Don Harris	2.1%
Rankin	Jimmy Roberts	2.0%
Leflore	James Hankins	1.7%
Coahoma	Charles Scott	1.4%
Lafayette	Lonnie Weaver	1.3%
Sunflower	Doug Card	1.0%
Monroe	Alan Gurley	1.0%
Holmes	Robert Smart	.9%
Yazoo	Ricky Shivers	.9%
Hancock	Norma Stiglet	.9%
Simpson	Bobby Williams	.8%
Madison	Harry Baldwin	.8%
Scott	Joe Bradford	.8%
Marion	Norma Williamson	.8%
Wayne	Richard Thames	.7%
Clay	Alvin Carter	.7%
Newton	Dale Stampley	.7%
Leake	Randolph Scott	.7%
Neshoba	Allen Collins	.6%
Tippah	Neil Bateman	.6%
Attala	Hubert Robertson	.6%
Montgomery	Karl Oliver	.5%
Noxubee	Diana Brooks	.5%

Clarke	Butch Wright	.5%
Tate	Buddy Kirkland	.5%
Jefferson Davis	Joe Hutchins	.4%
Covington	Billy King	.4%
Humphreys	Robert Ragland	.3%
Perry	Mike Malone	.3%
Jasper	Glaston Temple	.3%
Tallahatchie	George Speirs	.3%
Kemper	Jeff Jowers	.2%
Quitman	J.W.Jenkins	.2%
Stone	Mike Lott	.2%
Smith	Carl Harris	.2%
Tunica	Bart Cowart	.2%
Choctaw Indian Reservation	Terry Parkerson	

Total Deaths in Miss. 1993 25,668      15,070/25,668 = 58.7%

# of Coroners      42 out of 82