OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR

FROM: BOYD

SUBJECT: CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

DATE: 4/24/00

CC: FILE

Senator Chaney's bills SB2324 and its companion bill, HB 1486, reduce funding for local school districts by capping funds to the school districts at FY 1999 and 2000, respectively. Chaney says $1.6 million can be used for computers but the remainder is dedicated to shoring up minimum program shortfalls and other related projects. Chaney was unwilling to obtain Gordon's support for including $1.6 million in the education appropriations bill.

I am concerned that Chaney's "other related projects" may not be education-related. Your goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom by the end of 2002 will require the purchase of at least 12,602 ($25.2 million). This task force is going to more than $5.0 million in public support to be successful in the first year.

I would recommend that you encourage the conferees to include $5 million for classroom technology in the education appropriations bill and veto Chaney's diversion bills.

OTHER UPDATES:

Blake Wilson is preparing a list of names for you to begin "dialing for dollars." Additionally, Wilson notes Carolyn Shanks has a "pile of money" that she is holding back for donation. I should have a list by Thursday, and I will ask for your review and addition to the list. Riley is currently working with Secretary Riley's point person on obtaining federal dollars to support your efforts.

I would like to schedule a Task Force meeting before May 10th. Riley and I are putting together an agenda for your approval and to be mailed to the members prior to the meeting. You should have this by Friday.

The discussions of the task force working group (ITS, SDE, MEC, and Governor's Office) have centered on obtaining an accurate count of classrooms needing computers, computer specifications, and the purchasing process. I anticipate that the latter will be of great discussion during task force meeting. I will have more for you by the weekend.