

July 10, 2001

«Prefix» «Fname» «Mname»«Lname»«Suffix»
«Chamber»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Office» «Lname»:

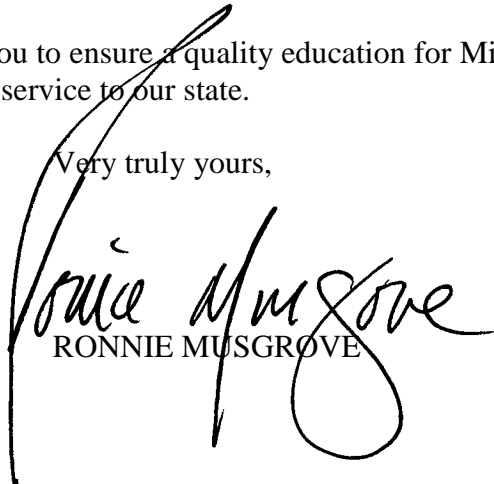
Since signing HB 1134 on May 1, 2000, I have consistently called for the removal of the five percent trigger for teacher salary increases. I urge you to support the removal of the five percent provision. On Monday, July 23, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., the First Extraordinary Session of 2001 will address the single issue of teacher pay because this issue deserves our immediate and undivided focus.

There is no single issue more important to the advancement of our people and improvement of our quality of life. Upon passage, the action taken during this historical Extraordinary Session will bring Mississippi's average teacher salary up from 49th to 19th in the nation.

Teacher pay is indeed a priority for our state. *We must remove the five percent provision from the teacher pay plan.* Raising the average salary of Mississippi teachers to that of the southeastern average is critical to our school districts' ability to recruit and retain the qualified teachers that are critical to our children's educational development. Our children deserve no less. Removal of the five percent provision proves to our teachers, our children and Mississippians that education is a top priority and that we are committed to paying our teachers a competitive salary.

I look forward to working with you to ensure a quality education for Mississippi's children. As always, thank you for your service to our state.

Very truly yours,



RONNIE MUSGROVE