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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** BENTLEY  
BOYD  
CARTER  
GAVIN  
PROSPERE  
SHEARER  
WILLIAMS

**FROM:** RILEY

**SUBJECT:** PHONE CALLS TO LEGISLATORS TO REQUEST THEIR SUPPORT OF 5% REMOVAL

**DATE** 7/17/01

**CC:** FILE

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The Governor has requested that we contact all legislators prior to Monday's Special Session to encourage them to vote for the removal of the five percent trigger for teacher salary increases. **Several legislators are still at the SLC meeting, so you can hold off on calling until tomorrow (Wednesday).** I have split the legislators up as follows:

Bentley:	Reps. Willie Bailey through Lee Jarrell Davis
Boyd:	Reps. Dirk Dedeaux through Joey Grist
Carter:	Reps. Danny Guice through Chester Masterson
Gavin:	Reps. John Mayo through John Read
Prospere:	Reps. John Reeves through Johnny Stringer
Riley:	Reps. Joe Taylor through Senator Scottie Cuevas
Shearer:	Senators Deborah Dawkins through Ezell Lee
Williams:	Senators Nolan Mettetal through Gloria Williamson

Please gauge the sentiment of the legislators and let me know of any who indicate that they are not planning on voting for the removal of the 5%.

A few talking points (if you need them)

- Raising the average salary of Mississippi teachers to that of the southeastern average will enhance our districts' ability to recruit and retain the qualified teachers that are critical to our children's educational development.
- Removal of the 5% sends the message that education is a top priority and Mississippi is committed to paying our teachers the competitive salary that they deserve.

- *If asked about why we have to have a Special Session just for teacher pay, rather than redistricting:*

Teacher pay deserves our immediate and undivided focus.

School districts are trying to fill vacancies and finalize teacher contracts for the school year that starts in 3-4 weeks.

It is important to have the teacher salary increase information finalized before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee starts budget hearings and makes budget recommendations.

Congressional redistricting could be long and divisive and we've had no contact from the Redistricting Committee to know when their work will be completed and they will be ready for the Legislature to meet.