
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: LABOR DEPARTMENT MYTHS & FACTS
DATE: 2/21/2000
CC: COLE, SIMMONS

It has come to my attention that proponents for the creation of the Department of Labor have misconstrued some information regarding the need for said department. Below please find corrections for these errors:

- Myth #1:** We must have a “Department of Labor” to obtain federal funds.
Response #1: According to Barbara Kelly, USDOL, there is no federal or congressional requirement that a state must have a department with labor in the title.
- Myth #2:** Mississippi has lost more than \$50 million in federal funding as a result of not having a department of labor.
Response #2: The U.S. Department of Labor can only identify approximately \$13 million in federal funding that Mississippi has missed. These funds were “formula” money (entitlements) for Mississippi that the previous administration refused.

There are “competitive grants” administered the USDOL that Mississippi was eligible and under the previous administration refused to apply. [This alone is a very strong reason consolidate agencies into a Department of Labor to monitoring of federal funding activities and consolidate their individual budgets into a unified, efficient process.]

According to Barbara Kelly, North Carolina and Kentucky are the best at applying and obtaining competitive grants from the USDOL.

MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Blake Wilson, MEC, has forwarded a draft copy of the information they intend to present at tomorrow’s Senate hearing. In short, it provides an overview of how Mississippi’s labor elements are subdivided and how Texas and Florida (The Bush Brothers) are deconstructing their departments of labor. One of the strongest points made my MEC, unknowingly, is that **seven state agencies** currently oversee USDOL adult training programs.