
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM HEADSTART ASSOCIATION FOR TASK FORCE
DATE 4/17/03
CC: TELL

I met with Arvern Moore and the Headstart directors last Friday. Mr. Moore invited me to attend their meeting to update them on Headstart action from Washington.

I briefed them (based on info from Fred) that there was no new action from the Hill on the Headstart proposal. I also shared Fred's comments from his meeting with the national Headstart Association.

Representatives at the meeting stated, that based on communications and counterparts they had with counterparts around the country and in Washington that the issue of moving Headstart from HHS to USDE appears to be dead, but that blockgrants remains a big possibility. Representatives also said that Lott and Cochran both support the Headstart position, but representatives may not be as committed, although some present said they had commitments from Thompson and Taylor.

Mr. Moore requested that you consider forming a small task force to monitor federal activities regarding Headstart and to develop recommendations should the program be blockgranted. I suggested that such a task force could develop recommendations regarding the blockgrant approach, accountability standards and potentially increasing participation. The group liked these initial areas and had a strong interest in making sure that we are maximizing all potential/available resources in order to be serving the greatest number of children. Mr. Moore requested that the task force be kept small (maybe 4 or 5 persons) with a rep from this office and the department of education. I'm suggesting that you support such a task force and that it be comprised of the following:

1. Arvern Moore
2. Laura Beth Hebbler, Director of the Headstart Collaboration Office at MDE
3. Myself
4. Headstart Director designated by Mr. Moore
5. Headstart Director designated by Mr. Moore

A lot of the task force's work could be conducted via email. There will be no funds involved and I don't think we need anything as formal as an executive order. Our office doing such will send a strong signal to the Headstart Association as to your support and respect for their work. May I inform Mr. Moore that you support creating such a task force?

Yes _____

No _____