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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FROM DGA FOR YOU TO SIGN ON TO HEAD START LETTER  
**DATE** 8/12/03  
**CC:** ZEYTOONJIAN

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DGA is requesting your signature on the attached draft letter. According to Fred, at this point the DGA leadership (Governors Vilsack, Locke, Richardson and you) will most likely be the 4 signatures. Fred hasn't heard from the others yet, but the letter won't go unless we have all of them. Fred says that default would be Chair and Vice Chair Locke and Vilsack.

The letter is at the request of Kennedy and Dodd who are sponsoring the Democratic alternative that focuses more on creating better coordination which is closely tied to the NGA policy. Kennedy and Dodd's staff have worked closely with Democratic governors to make sure it's in line with our policy. Fred and I have emailed several times on this issue. The basic premise is that Head Start isn't broken, but could use some tweaks to make sure that organizations are working together to solve problems as they arise. Kennedy and Dodd's bill is an attempt to steer the discussion away from block grants or pilot programs, although Fred's intelligence on the Hill is indicating that Senator Gregg will introduce a proposal in early September that looks more like the President's plan than we had hoped.

Fred and I are recommending that you sign on to the attached draft letter. I can let Arvern Moore know that we are still working on this issue with Congress, which should sit well with the MS Head Start Association. Fred and I will advise you of any major revisions, should they be made, between now and the final draft.

Please indicate if you will sign on as requested by DGA:

Yes – sign on \_\_\_\_\_

No – don't sign on \_\_\_\_\_