

## FACSIMILE

TO: Senator Terry Burton  
Senator Alice Harden  
Representative Joe Warren  
Representative Charles Young  
FROM: Kelly Riley, Policy Liaison  
DATE: June 2, 2000  
SUBJECT: Letters of Support for the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant

The Teacher Quality Enhancement grant workgroup is finalizing Mississippi's grant proposal. The grant has four goals:

1. Involve all stakeholders in developing a seamless K-16 system that supports growth in student achievement across the state.
2. Develop and implement state policies that strengthen licensing standards.
3. Develop and implement state policies and programs that increase the number of qualified teachers entering the field.
4. Develop policies, clear standards and programs that ensure retention of qualified teachers.

Workgroup members representing the Department of Education, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, the Institutions of Higher Learning, and the Public Education Forum have reviewed and approved the grant narrative. The workgroup has requested that you write a letter of support for the grant. I have attached a draft for your reference in developing your letter of support. I would urge you to only use my letter as a model so that your letters of support will not all have the same text. Please address your letter of support to Governor Musgrove, but address the envelope in which you mail your letter of support to me so that I may be sure to receive it directly. We will be mailing the grant proposal next Friday, June 9, so **I need to receive your letter of support by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 6.**

Please contact me at 359-2528 if you have any questions. Thank you once again for your assistance and input on this grant opportunity.

June 6, 2000

Honorable Ronnie Musgrove, Governor  
State of Mississippi  
P.O. Box 139  
Jackson, MS 39205-0139

Dear Governor Musgrove:

I am writing on behalf of the House/Senate Education/Universities and Colleges Committee in support of Mississippi's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant application. As Chairman of the committee, I recognize the importance of statewide teacher education reform activities. We must do all we can to prepare, support and retain our teachers.

The Mississippi House/Senate strongly supports teacher recruitment, retention, licensure, preparation and continued professional development. Funding during our 1999 session focused on teacher recruitment, scholarships, incentives to recruit teacher education candidates and practicing teachers to high-need districts, and the support of graduate study. Legislation passed during this year's regular session focuses on accountability at the school level rather than the district level and provides assistance and support in the development of improvement plans, including professional development plans, for schools at risk.

I hope that the U.S. Department of Education will fund this grant to order to strengthen Mississippi's licensing standards, our efforts to increase the number of and ensure the retention of qualified teachers, in addition to our developing a seamless K-16 educational system for our state that supports our students' achievement. This grant will provide additional resources to those critical needs areas of our state and will utilize our National Board Certified teachers to assist and mentor other teachers.

The members of the House/Senate look forward to working with you in support of our teachers and of the efforts identified in this grant.

Very truly yours,

XXXXXX, Chairman/woman  
House/Senate Education/Universities and  
Colleges Committee