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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** VALLEY STATE'S REQUEST FOR LETTER OF DESIGNATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GRANT  
**DATE:** 3/7/2002  
**CC:** FILE

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Dr. Lester Newman of Valley State University had a letter delivered to our today requesting that you sign a letter designating Valley and the Department of Education to serve as the agencies for the Quality Child Care Workers' Pilot and Demonstration Project for Mississippi. Valley and MDE are submitting a \$325,000 grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

I have reviewed our policy for letters of support with Phillip and we think that Valley has complied with our requirements for a letter of support/designation for a federal application. Valley State provided a copy of their proposal for our review, as well as a letter of support from Dr. Susan Rucker at MDE.

MDE will serve as state administrator in collaboration with Valley State for this program. If funded, this program will create a statewide credentialed career pathway for early child care development workers via a college curriculum and training provided via the National Registered Apprenticeship System for National Child Care Workers. No state funding is required. The \$325,000 in federal funds will provide for 40 program participants. These participants will receive a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate and the related coursework will be counted as college credits at Valley State towards a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

I contacted Dr. Cathy Grace at the Early Childhood Institute to make sure that this proposal would not inhibit any other early childhood efforts in the state, particularly our anticipated work with Dr. Lynn Kagan. Dr. Grace thought it would be great if Valley State could get this project.

I have drafted the attached letter designating Valley and MDE as the agencies for the Quality Child Care Workers' Pilot and Demonstration Project for Mississippi. Please either sign the letter or mark any changes you want made. Valley has to FedEx its application this Saturday and they are willing to have someone drive to Jackson tomorrow (Friday) to pick up the letter. Thank you.