

May 13, 2003

Ms. Sheri Lacy  
ZERO TO THREE  
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Lacy:

Please consider this letter as one of support for Dr. Cathy Grace to participate in The State Early Childhood Policy Leadership Forum. Dr. Grace has provided leadership in the field of early childhood education in Mississippi and in the South for over 20 years.

Dr. Grace has provided leadership to public schools across Mississippi since 1983 when she directed the statewide implementation of public kindergarten and the assistant teacher program. As a university professor, she has directed a laboratory childcare center and taught undergraduate and graduate students in three state universities. Dr. Grace served as vice-chairman of an early childhood task force created by the Mississippi legislature four years ago and she now serves on the advisory committee to the Early Childhood Services Interagency Council. Dr. Grace coordinates The Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University, a partnership between the University and The Day Foundation, and directs programs and research aimed at raising the quality of services young children receive in our state. I have designated Dr. Grace to serve as the lead support person to Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan and Dr. Richard Brandon in their work with our state to develop a blueprint for financing early care and education in Mississippi.

Dr. Grace has received recognition from the Southern Early Childhood Association, Mississippi Early Childhood Association, Mississippi Reading Association and The Phil Hardin Foundation for her contributions to the children in our state. Dr. Cathy Grace will prove to be an asset to the Forum. Thank you for your consideration of her application.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr