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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY LEADERSHIP FORUM  
**DATE:** 5/29/2001  
**CC:** BOYD  
TELL

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Zero to Three and NGA have forwarded information to us concerning their efforts to launch a State Early Childhood Policy Leadership Forum. The Forum will support a preeminent network of policy and program leaders working to strengthen cross-system early childhood (birth to 5) policies and programs. The Forum is being funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The goal of the initiative is to encourage mutual learning among the selected Fellows that will help build their leadership skills and state capacity to create cross-system early childhood policies and programs. Zero to Three and NGA are seeking applicants who:

- Are currently leading or guiding state-level comprehensive early childhood policy initiatives as state-government employees, as part of public-private partnerships, or as part of the legislative branch; and,
- Have experience working across systems (e.g., child care, health, education, early intervention)

The Forum will bring the selected Fellows together twice over a period of a year and a half for a two-day retreat. Fellows will also receive a stipend to support their own professional development or technical assistance needs. Applications/nominations are due June 15, 2001. Applicants must submit a letter of support from their Governor.

Dr. Cathy Grace approached me about the Forum after last week's Early Childhood Advisory Committee meeting. She is interested in applying for a fellowship and requested a letter of support from you, but acknowledged that you might want to write only one letter of support, particularly if for you want an agency to nominate someone or if you want to nominate someone yourself.

We have not provided the information to any agencies, but will do so per your direction. The materials do not stipulate that only one nomination will be accepted from each state, so you could write multiple letters of support if you wished to do so. Do you want me to distribute the information to DHS, Medicaid, Health (First Steps) and Head Start?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to write a letter of support for Dr. Grace?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_