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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** 2/22/02 GRASS ROOTS MEETING  
**DATE:** 2/22/02  
**CC:** KINNEY

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I have contacted the following organizations and invited them to the meeting:

Superintendents' Association (David Sheppard, David Watkins)  
MS School Board Association (Mike Waldrup)  
MS Association of School Administrators (Mike Vinson)  
AFT (Greg Kelly)  
MAE (Terry Lynn Hamm)  
MPE (Mel Buckley; he left a message that he will be out of town)  
Parents for Public Schools (Susan Womack)  
PTA (Obra Hackett)  
MDE (Richard Thompson)

**Action Already Taken**

1. Drafted language for Dr. Thompson to issue in a "Monday Memo"
2. Held town hall meetings in Biloxi, Tupelo and Greenville
3. Wrote Sunday article on necessity of funding education – This Sunday's article will also be on this subject.

**Action To Take That We Need Assistance With**

1. Letter from Governor to (We need assistance from the organizations in providing addresses):
  - Teachers
  - PTA Presidents
  - Parents for Public School Chapters
  - School Board Members
2. Organizations need to encourage their members and their communities to contact legislators via phone, mail or email to urge them to make education a priority. Letters should also be written to the editors of local papers and the *Clarion Ledger*.

3. Organize continuous presence at capitol – We need to select dates. Constituents definitely need to march on the capitol on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the appropriations committees are meeting (House is at 10:00; Senate is at 1:30).

**NOTE: David Watkins emailed a copy of the superintendents' and the school boards' "Week 1 Action Plan" to me this morning. Steps include:**

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, February 21 | Meet with local newspaper editors to explain the magnitude of the reductions or, alternatively, local tax increases that may be required to absorb the reductions |
| Friday, February 22   | Meet with local legislators while they are home during the weekend                                                                                                |
| Tuesday, February 26  | Statewide meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza; 11:00 press conference on capitol steps; lunch with legislators                                               |