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

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**TO:** SEWELL  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** REP. WARREN AND SEN. HARDEN'S 3/17/02 CLARION-LEDGER EDITORIALS  
**DATE:** 3/20/02  
**CC:** FILE

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Warren cited the Mississippi Accountability and Adequate Education Act of 1997 to establish equity funding for public schools as one of the four most significant programs enacted by the Legislature in the past few years. Although Senator Bryan authored this bill, then Lieutenant Governor Musgrove was a leader in the passage of this historic legislation.

Warren also cited the Mississippi Teacher Opportunity Program of 2000 that establishes a five-year pay plan to increase salaries by 30 percent. The Legislature passed this legislation in 2000 with the five percent provision. Governor Musgrove consistently fought for removal of the five percent provision so that our teachers could know that the state is committed to this pay plan.

Harden and Warren both reported that \$50.6 million in reductions were necessary this year. My spreadsheet from Felicia shows that General Education, the Minimum Program and the Adequate Education Program were actually reduced by approximately \$62.3 million in February. These reductions were necessary due to the Legislature's using over-inflated revenue estimate projections in the FY 02 appropriations.

Harden's column was technically incorrect. She specifically mentioned HB 1379 and stated "the House amended this education appropriation bill to take \$64 million of that \$119 million for funding of K-12 for fiscal year 2003." HB 1379 does not provide for the \$64 million to go to K-12; rather, it simply provides for the early payment of corporate taxes. Other House appropriation bills provide for the \$64 million if HB 1379 passes:

HB 1801	\$7,349,814 to Minimum Program from HB 1379 \$400,000 to Vocational Education from HB 1379
HB 1803	\$36,471,718 to MAEP from HB 1379 \$20,000,000 from Public School Building Fund
HB 1806	\$201,347 to Library Commission from HB 1379