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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** KINNEY  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** PRESIDENT SIGNING NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (H.R. 1)  
**DATE** 1/8/02  
**CC:** MAYO  
SEWELL

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The following are core components of the No Child Left Behind bill:

- Gives strong support and encouragement to states to provide assistance to those low-performing students who have fallen through the cracks.
- Requires states to implement educational assessment/accountability programs. States will be required to demonstrate average yearly progress or face reduction of federal funds.
- States will be required to conduct annual testing in reading and math in grades 3-8. Mississippi is already implementing this. We will have to add a science test and one more variable within the next five years in our elementary grades.
- States are required to participate in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) assessments in reading and math conducted on a biennial basis. The cost of the state participation is covered in the legislation. The NAEP is overseen by the National Assessment Governing Board. Governor Musgrove is one of two governors to serve on the National Assessment Governing Board.
- Provides increased funding for:

teacher quality, recruitment and retention. Governor Musgrove strongly supports having a qualified teacher in every classroom.

Rural schools in high poverty areas

Reading skills improvement. The Barksdale Reading Institute and Mississippi's Reading Excellence Program both emphasize reading and the importance of a child's reading skills on his/her future educational capabilities.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grants which provide for mentoring and after school programs.

Early childhood/pre-kindergarten programs - *Building Opportunity in Mississippi Through Higher Education*, a report of priorities for advancing Mississippi through its colleges and universities released by the Steering Committee for Mississippi's Leadership Summit on Higher Education on Monday, January 7, identified early childhood education and pre-kindergarten as one of six priorities for Mississippi. Governor Musgrove Co-chaired the Steering Committee.

- H.R. 1 strives to improve the performance of students in the areas of math and science.

“I am glad to see that the President recognizes the importance of education. His signing of this legislation will only emphasize the role that education plays in a person's life and the responsibility that we all have to effectively prepare our students for their futures.”