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

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** IHL REQUEST FOR YOU TO CALL SENATORS LOTT AND COCHRAN  
**DATE:** 9/28/01  
**CC:** FILE

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Dr. Bill McHenry of IHL has requested that you call Senators Lott and Cochran and request their assistance in funding Mississippi's GEAR UP grant proposal. I have served on the GEAR UP development committee on behalf of this office and you have written letters of support. A few talking points:

- The mission of Mississippi's GEAR UP program is to ensure that disadvantaged middle school and secondary school students in Mississippi are prepared to pursue and succeed in post-secondary education.
- Program activities will be implemented at 25 of the state's poorest schools, will involve approximately 6,500 students, and will include:
  - comprehensive tutoring and mentoring
  - teacher, counselor, and administrator professional development
  - outreach and family involvement
  - summer academic enrichment and transitional programs
  - tuition assistance
- GEAR UP is a partnership between MDE, SBCJC and IHL designed to assist Mississippians' access to higher education.
- Mississippi requested \$12,422,260 in federal funding over five years. Mississippi has applied for GEAR UP each of the last 3 years and has consistently been among the highest proposals not funded. This year, USDE announced that it had funds to support 6 to 9 new state awards, but then funded only 2 new states, funding them for the full five years in Year 1 instead of annual funding.
- Mississippi, along with Idaho and South Dakota, is 1 of 3 states that has not received any GEAR UP awards. Total GEAR UP funding in the first three years has been \$600,000,000.
- The Senators may contact either Maureen McLaughlin (202-502-7950) or Karmon Simms-Coates (202-502-7807) at USDE regarding this matter.