

June 23, 2000

Ms. Susan Oliver
Education Excellence Partnership
1615 L Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Oliver:

The State of Mississippi is making great strides in advancing its public education system. The 1999 Student Achievement Improvement Act and 2000 legislation mandating new accountability standards will move our state into a new realm of student achievement.

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I have committed much time and energy to public education. My office works closely with the Department of Education in an effort to increase student achievement and to provide our young people with the very best educational efforts. Such cooperation recently resulted in Mississippi being awarded a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide technology training to our superintendents and principals.

My staff and I will continue to work with the Department of Education in communicating the importance of student achievement. I fully support this grant application for communications assistance in building strong support for this effort. Thank you for your consideration of this application and for your time and service in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

