

October 3, 2002

Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2402

Dear Senator Cochran:

I am pleased to offer my support to the *Following the Leaders* project funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The Department is requesting an appropriation for the continuation of this important program and I am requesting any assistance that you may be able to provide on behalf of *Following the Leaders*.

Mississippi is one of six states selected to participate in *Following the Leaders*. This project will assist Mississippi's educators, parents, administrators and policymakers in using student assessment to improve instruction in order to meet the new standards for school and student improvement outlined in *No Child Behind*. The project will provide a vast array of resources, ranging from technical assistance for our policy makers to lesson plan guides and classroom resources for our teachers. Our fifteen pilot schools are eager to implement *Following the Leaders* and are committed to its success. Continuation of federal funding for *Following the Leaders* will enable additional Mississippi schools to participate in this exciting opportunity.

Thank you in advance for any assistance that you may be able to provide in securing continued funding for *Following the Leaders*. As always, thank you for your service to Mississippi and to our country.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr