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

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** AMY MCMAHAN AT JSU LEARNING CENTER: DHS FUNDING PULLED  
**DATE** 5/8/03  
**CC:** TELL

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Amy McMahan of JSU's Continuing Education Learning Center has contacted me very alarmed that the Center has received notice from DHS that funding for the Center was not included in MDHS' appropriation, so DHS will be unable to fund the program for FY 2004. Amy is requesting any assistance our office might be able to provide in continued funding.

Amy has faxed me a copy of the letter dated April 29 from Pam Simpson, Director of the Division of Economic Assistance, which informs the Center of the above. The Center's current grant ends June 30.

According to Amy, the Center has received \$150,000 from DHS for the last six years. The Center's entire budget is \$435,000. The grant paid for Amy's salary, as well as 4 of the Center's 7 teachers' salaries. The Center operates year round and serves approximately 250 students, aged 17 through the 70's. 691 students have earned their GEDs at the center. Amy reports that the Center has served approximately 5,500 metro citizens during its 14-year existence.

Amy said most university continuing ed centers are self-funded through student tuition/fees; however, the students served by the JSU Center cannot afford to pay, so the Center has relied on grants. The Center currently serves about 40 teen dropouts who have been referred to the Center by JPS, JPD, Sheriff McMillin and shelters. These teens will be dumped back out on the street if the DHS funding ceases. Amy reports that she is contacting everyone she knows, but she especially wanted you to be aware of the situation in case you could intervene on the Center's success.

As you well know, Amy has been a long-time vocal supporter of you. She is often forwarding articles or info to me for my information. She recently emailed me info regarding two new federal laws aimed at helping people with disabilities join the workforce, but I haven't been able to research it and prepare a memo for you.

Please advise as to if you want me to work with Armerita on the Center's behalf with DHS or if you don't wish for me to take further action.

You and Rita work with DHS \_\_\_\_\_ No further action \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!