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## **Governor Musgrove Urges Full Funding for Educational Needs from Washington**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove called on Congress and the Bush administration today to fully fund education programs currently under debate in Washington, D.C. The programs include school renovation grants, special education funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Title I programs for disadvantaged students.

“When we talk about education, we’re talking about the strength of our collective future,” Musgrove said. “We must remind Congress and the administration in Washington of the promises that have been made over the years. The states cannot afford to continue bearing the financial burden of mandates from Washington.”

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act passed in the mid-1970’s, the federal government is required to fund 40 percent of special education costs, but has never funded more than 15 percent.

Under the budget currently proposed by the Bush administration funding for special education in Mississippi would increase by \$11 million, or approximately \$200 per special education student.

Funding support for school renovation for the next fiscal year has been cut by the administration entirely, down from the \$15 million received by Mississippi this year. And, the state stands to lose nearly \$3 million in Title I funding under the current administration proposal.