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

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** SMITH  
**SUBJECT:** NELSON ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE STUDY  
**DATE:** 5/23/03  
**CC:** RENICK, KINNEY, LEE ANN, TELL

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Deb Biggers with DFA forwarded the attached letter to run by you to make sure it is okay to agree to participate in a study conducted by the Nelson Rockefeller Institute and the Lewin Group for the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The purpose of the study is to understand the factors affecting state and local spending decisions across a wide variety of social programs for low-income people, including TNAF, Medicaid and CHIP, child care, foster care, child welfare, and social service block grants. They will focus on discerning what problems and opportunities states confront when revenues are scarce and needs are great. There will be six states participating in the study.

Timeline for the study is as follows:

**Summer 2003 (June, July and August)-** Researchers will visit the state and talk with DHS staff, public officials, administrators, legislators or legislative staff, and state budget officials to discuss data and the state budget process. Special emphasis will be placed on looking at public data sources, such as reports to federal agencies indicating state spending on selected programs.

**Later 2003-** Participating six states will receive draft report to review and submit comments, which they will respond to in writing or in the final report.

**January-March –** Final report will be submitted to HHS.

I spoke with Rica and Thelma about the study to see if it was discussed at the meeting Governor Winter hosted last week in Jackson with representatives from the Rockefeller Institute. Nothing

was mentioned but Rica and Thelma both said that they didn't see any problem with the state participating.

Would you like for the state to participate in this study?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_