

In 1998 Mississippi Economic Council chose education as the number one priority for business growth.

We are pleased and we are proud today that the Mississippi Economic Council Board of Directors has voted unanimously that their number one, most critical issue, is raising teacher pay in the State of Mississippi.

I, along with the Lt. Governor and the Speaker, am glad to see their support for teacher pay raises. This expresses MEC's continued commitment to improving education in our state.

Better education equals better jobs.

To provide employers with the best qualified workforce, we must have well-paid teachers in the classroom who are responsible for educating our children, Mississippi's workforce of tomorrow.

We hear our business community loud and clear. They realize the importance of our efforts, and we will continue to work together to raise teacher pay to the southeastern average.

Better education equals better jobs.