

**MISSISSIPPI MINUTE    957-8877    GUY AUSTIN**

The national recession is hitting the states hard now, but we know it will end one day. We have to be prepared for that day. The first step in that preparation is making sure our schools are our top priority.

Our investment in education affects every Mississippian, not just teachers or students. Good schools help attract good jobs; good jobs help build good communities; good communities support good schools.

Good schools, good jobs, good communities.

We know investing in education works. The opportunities that lie ahead call us to keep that investment strong.

I'm fighting to increase our funding for education. If we shortchange our investment in education, we shortchange our future. That's not an acceptable alternative.

The Legislature has been challenged to produce one comprehensive appropriations bill for education, funded at the 62 percent level called for in the executive budget recommendation. It's time to prove we care about our schools. It's time to prove that when it comes to education, we mean business.

Remember, good schools help attract good jobs; good jobs help build good communities; good communities support good schools. Everyone benefits.

I'm Ronnie Musgrove, and this has been the Mississippi Minute. Thanks for listening.