

September 20, 2000

Dear Friends of Education:

Throughout my career as a Senator, as Lt. Governor and now Governor, I have championed education. Improving education for our children is important for us. That is why we developed Executive Budget Recommendations. We have developed a State Budget that exempts K-12 Education from any budget cuts.

The budget recommendations submitted to the Legislative Budget Committee members put a greater percentage of general fund dollars into education than before. Our budget includes teacher pay raises beginning in the 2002 budget year, fully funding the adequate education program and scholarship funds for teachers. We have made an additional appropriation of \$15 Million in fiscal year 2001 to fund the minimum program (teacher salaries), and a \$3 Million appropriation for the Critical Teacher Shortage Program.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a General Fund Statement, which outlines estimated funds available for fiscal year 2002 appropriations. If you would like to read the budget in its entirety, you can access it through our website, www.governor.state.ms.us.

As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions you may have by calling toll free (877) 405-0733.

Very Truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

Encl.