
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: SMITH
SUBJECT: NURSING TASK FORCE
DATE: 10/9/02
CC: LEE ANN, RENICK

I have spoken to Betty Dixon on several occasions about the request from Senators Dawkins and Williamson that you consider appointing a Nursing Task Force. Betty and I both agree that if the purpose of this task force would be to raise awareness that it may be something you would want to do.

The Office of Nursing Workforce has been in place since 1996 and receives funding to study the current and future needs of nurses in Mississippi. They have received funds from the legislature and have asked for additional funding for FY04 to continue their efforts. Things they have been working on include gathering data, working with hospitals in the state to survey nurses concerns, and are trying to address retention issues. They have also established a dialog with schools and universities about their role. They have developed a nurse recruitment video.

My recommendation would be not to appoint a task force by executive order since it would be duplication. If you do choose to appoint a task force since Senators Dawkins and Williamson have requested, Betty and I agree that we need to include language that they are to collaborate with the Office of Nursing Workforce. However, Betty said that Senator Huggins and Senator Gordon are upset with her for participating in the hearing with Senators Dawkins and Williamson. Betty is afraid it will affect her funding request.

Do you want to appoint a Nursing Task Force by Executive Order?

YES _____

NO _____