

June 26, 2000

Ms. Andrea L. Brandon, Chief Grants Management Officer
Office of Grants Management
4350 East-West Highway, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Ms. Brandon:

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I am pleased to submit this letter of support on behalf of the Starkville School District's application for continuation of funding for its Project GOALS. Project GOALS is designed to work with teens in the Starkville-Oktibbeha County area who are considered to be at-risk of school failure and increased risk of teen-pregnancy.

Project GOALS serves to prevent pregnancy among teenagers by encouraging abstinence until marriage. The program utilizes three curriculums to accomplish this goal: abstinence education, tutoring/mentoring and the use of life-like dolls that simulate the experiences involved in caring for a child. Project GOALS encourages parental involvement, as well as the support of community and business leaders.

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I have committed much time and energy to public education and I am a firm supporter of abstinence. I support this grant application and its efforts in preparing our youth for their futures. Thank you for your consideration of this application and for your time and service in this endeavor.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr