

June 12, 2001

Ms. Debera Riley
1055 Dorgan Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39204

Dear Ms. Riley:

Thank you for writing to express your concerns about violence in our schools. This is a very serious problem that does not have an easy answer. Throughout my career with the State of Mississippi, I have been a strong advocate for prayer in schools and have helped to write legislation on this matter.

Even though the efforts of legislators and myself have been rejected, I will continue to pursue this cause. As a Christian, I have found prayer to be the answer to many of life's challenges. I pray for many things on a daily basis. I pray for my children and the obstacles they will have to face, for guidance in leading the State of Mississippi and for the wisdom to make the right and just choices for the people of our state.

During the previous legislative session, I had the honor of signing House Bill 51, which authorizes a brief period of quiet reflection in public school classrooms at the beginning of the day and will also allow displays of the American motto of "In God We Trust." Even though these provisions are not intended as a religious exercise, it will serve as a reminder and inspiration for many young minds as they face the world with renewed hope that there is a God, He has not been forgotten, and He will not be ignored.

Thank you for your prayers and your concern for Mississippi's children. If I may ever be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg