

June 5, 2000

Honorable Thad Cochran  
U.S. Senate  
326 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

I am writing on behalf of the faculty and students of Madison Station Elementary in Madison. Madison Station has requested approximately \$250,000 in federal funding for its Arts Create Excellence (ACE) program. ACE integrates the arts and humanities with the traditional academic curriculum.

Thalia Mara is working closely with Madison Station's administration to implement this program. In addition to fostering students' cognitive development, ACE will promote respect for self and others through the moral education provided by the arts and humanities. ACE's immediate benefit will be that Madison Station's students will be challenged beyond anything they have experienced heretofore. Long term, the experience derived from this pilot program can be offered as a model curriculum to other communities.

I would appreciate any assistance you can provide in Washington on behalf of Madison Station Elementary for this innovative and worthwhile project. Since administrators are already planning next year's curriculums and programs, it would be most helpful to their planning efforts to be notified by July as to the disposition of their grant request.

Thank you once again for your assistance in this matter and for the service you provide to the citizens of Mississippi.

Very truly yours,

Melanie Musgrove