

December 12, 2001

Ms. Bridget Curran  
NGA Center for Best Practices  
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267  
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Dear Ms. Curran:

I am writing on behalf of the House Education Committee in support of Mississippi's *Colleges and Classrooms: State Strategies for Redesigning Teacher Preparation Policy* application. As Chairman of the committee, I feel we must do all we can to prepare, support and retain our teachers.

The Mississippi House strongly supports developing policy to improve teacher preparation and quality. In recent years, the Mississippi Legislature has provided funding for teacher recruitment, especially to our high-need districts. New accountability legislation will provide for accountability at the school level. The Mississippi Department of Education is reviewing our state's alternate route certification requirements. Mississippi is constantly seeking ways to strengthen and support our teachers.

We are demanding more of our teachers, so we must ensure that they are adequately prepared for the classroom. The technical assistance provide by the National Governors Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures via this project will be a great resource in our doing so.

I strongly support this project and look forward to Mississippi's team developing policy to improve teacher preparation and quality.

Very truly yours,

Joe Warren, Chairman  
House Education Committee