

June 11, 2001

Daphne L. Buckley
Mississippi Department of Education
Mississippi Teacher Center
P. O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Dear Ms. Buckley:

I am aware that your office is writing a grant proposal that would recruit well-qualified persons to become math, science, foreign language, and/or special education teachers. The grant funds would provide assistance in licensing, placement and two years of mentoring support. This would be of great benefit to Mississippi in filling vacancies in our schools.

I support the Mississippi Teacher Center's objectives of teacher recruitment and retention. The Office of the Governor looks forward to working collaboratively with the Teacher Center in seeking this Transition to Teaching Grant, which would enhance our state's efforts to increase the pool of highly qualified teachers to fill vacancies in our districts where a critical shortage of math, science, foreign language, and special education teachers exists.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Riley of my staff if the Office of the Governor may be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,

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RM:klr