

February 13, 2001

«Title» «First» «Last»  
«Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Title» «Last»:

Governor Musgrove has received your letter and requested that I respond to your comments about the budget reserves and reductions made to our Institutions of Higher Learning. Because the final revenue estimates used in last year's budgeting process were so far off the mark, we have been forced to reach into education budgets. Included in these reductions are a 3% reservation for the State Department of Education, a 5% reservation for Institutions of Higher Learning and Junior and Community Colleges, as well as 5% reductions to state source special funds.

By taking action now, we allow our agencies time to find responsible ways to absorb the shock of shrinking budgets and plan for changing financial circumstances. We recognize the challenge and we know that Mississippi's educators are already working on ways to maintain our commitment to quality education for our students. Should our revenue outlook improve, the state will be in a position to restore funding to agencies experiencing reservations nearer the end of the fiscal year.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Very truly yours,

Kelly L. Riley  
Policy Liaison