

July 18, 2003

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
United States Congress
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 15, 2003, regarding Oakley and Columbia Training Schools. First, let me assure you that I share your commitment to the safety and security of our children. I have full confidence that the Attorney General and the professionals at the Mississippi Department of Human Services will expeditiously resolve this matter.

Second, as I am sure you are aware, the Department of Human Services has made significant progress in improving the conditions at these institutions. In addition, they have presented to the Department of Justice a detailed plan for addressing all the concerns raised in the report.

I am forwarding a copy of your letter and this response to the Attorney General and the Executive Director at the Department of Human Services so they may provide you with additional information.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/pk

cc: Mike Moore, Attorney General
Thelma Brittain, Executive Director,
Department of Human Services