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September 21, 2012

Dear Mississippi Educator:

Voting is one of our most basic rights and responsibilities as citizens! It is heralded as a fundamental right of our representative democracy. Moreover, voting allows every citizen an equal voice in choosing those who will represent them and sometimes in helping to pass laws.

The **Promote the Vote** Mock Election is a great opportunity for students to understand and value their participation in the political process. The simple truth is that voting matters and it is a constructive way to speak out, make a difference and be counted. I am confident that as our students are exposed to and educated about voting they will understand how important it is to protect the right of all American citizens to have access to the ballot box. I'm sure that you will agree that voting is basic to America's democratic process; which is why so many Americans, throughout history, have fought and given their lives for this right!

This fundamental lesson in civics will help our students understand the function and interactions of each unit of government, local, state and national. The entire political process rides upon the citizenry casting a vote. It is from this springboard that laws, rules and policies are made that impact our lives.

I urge your participation and that of your students in the **Promote the Vote** Mock Election! You may visit the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.ms.gov/ptv) for additional details.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

BGT:fw

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