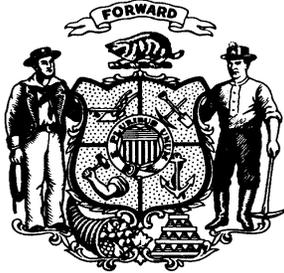


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DRAFT LETTER NO. 12

December 17, 2012

Senator Fred A. Risser, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Council
Room 130 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Representative Joan Ballweg, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Council
Room 210 North
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Co-Chairs Risser and Ballweg:

We are writing in our capacity as Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School. The Special Committee is directed to develop legislation to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school. Specifically, the committee is directed to evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program; examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state.

During the course of its meetings, the Special Committee discussed the training and instruction that is provided in educator preparation programs to prepare graduates to teach high school students. The committee also discussed the changing requirements in education, such as the No Child Left Behind waiver, 21st Century skills, Smarter Balanced assessments, ACT Suite, and Common Core. Given these changing requirements, and the need to keep educators informed about such requirements, the committee wants to ensure that programs designed to train future educators adequately prepare them to teach in this changing environment.

The Special Committee expressed interest in studying the educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education to ensure that the programs contain instruction in

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relevant changes in education, including 21st Century skills. Given the remaining number of committee meetings and the time that would be required to study and recommend changes to the educator preparation programs, the committee was unable to complete this task. However, the committee strongly believes that the educator preparation programs should be reviewed. Therefore, the Special Committee requests that the Joint Legislative Council appoint a special committee for the 2014 interim to study educator preparation programs in the state to ensure that the programs include instruction in relevant changes in education, including 21st Century skills.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Luther Olsen, Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

Representative Paul Farrow, Vice Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

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