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DRAFT LETTER NO. 14

December 17, 2012

The Honorable Scott Walker, Governor
Room 115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

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 Special Committee is required 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.

The Special Committee recently learned about the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) 2013-15 Biennial Budget request to establish a new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant Program that encourages school districts to increase the number of pupils graduating from high school with an industry-recognized credential in key occupations designated as being in highest need of additional skilled workers. DPI requests a sum sufficient \$3,000,000 GPR appropriation in fiscal year 2014-15 to establish this program. According to the DPI request, the program would provide school districts \$1,000 for each pupil who graduates from that district with certain recognized CTE certificates. Certifications that are eligible for incentives would be determined annually by DPI, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Aligning high school education with the needs of the workforce and helping students to earn credentials to enhance their employability are priorities for the Special Committee. Therefore, the Special Committee supports the creation of the CTE Incentive Grant Program and urges you to include this program as part of your 2013-15 Biennial Budget.

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Thank you for your consideration of 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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