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DRAFT LETTER NO. 16

December 17, 2012

Ms. Kathleen Cullen
Vice President, Teaching and Learning
Wisconsin Technical College System
4622 University Avenue
P.O. Box 7874
Madison, WI 53707-7874

Dear Ms. Cullen:

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 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 commends the Wisconsin Technical College System for its commitment to offer online courses that enable high school students to access technical college courses in high school. Online courses provide high school students with the opportunity to earn high school credits as well as postsecondary credits before high school graduation.

However, the Special Committee has had several discussions regarding the lack of technical education opportunities in high school, especially in more rural school districts, and the cost barriers school districts face in order to provide access to online technical college courses. Therefore, the Special Committee encourages the Wisconsin Technical College System to continue increasing the availability of online courses, seek additional funding to provide more

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online courses, and to work collaboratively with school districts in order to help districts provide high school students with greater access to online courses.

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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