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DRAFT LETTER NO. 18

December 17, 2012

Dear :

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.

Throughout the course of the Special Committee's meetings, the Special Committee has received testimony regarding numerous programs, local partnerships, and regional efforts to increase work-based learning, career opportunities, and post-secondary options for high school students. However, the Special Committee has learned that many school districts and businesses are unaware that such opportunities exist. The Special Committee believes that increasing the level of communication and coordination among school districts, post-secondary institutions, and businesses would facilitate increased college and career readiness among high school students in the state.

Therefore, the Special Committee requests that you form a taskforce comprised of representatives of school districts, post-secondary institutions, and businesses in your area in order to create a permanent entity to coordinate information and resources regarding work-based learning, career opportunities, and post-secondary options for high school students.

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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