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September 29, 2015

Chairman Phil Pavlov
905 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Chairman Pavlov,

We are writing to express our support and respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Education report out House Bill 4059. The legislation, introduced by Representative Holly Hughes, would extend the sunset for the emergency waiver and critical shortage list. The waiver and list allows districts that are not able to deliver services to students due to a lack of qualified service providers to contract or employ retired staff members. The current law lapsed on July 1, 2014.

It is important to note that the language in current law represents a 2012 agreement between the Office of Retirement Services (ORS), the Legislature, and the school community. The language requires the district to pay the retirement rate for health on earnings to avoid concerns over hiring employees who have previously retired. The legislation also allows third party contractors to contract with retired substitutes for up to 1/3 of their previous compensation.

The emergency waiver and critical shortage list are important tools for school districts and intermediate school districts to ensure students receive the services they need to succeed in school.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Dr. William C. Miller
Executive Director