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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Education Subcommittee

Re: HB 3412 Relating to assessments for children with difficulties hearing

Representative Smith Warner: “HB 3412 creates the Task Force on Assessments of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, which is charged with examining and making recommendations for a framework for assessing deaf and hard-of-hearing children to determine children’s competencies in language and literacy skills to ensure successful access to the kindergarten curriculum in an equitable manner. The task force must present its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2018.

The Department of Education will use existing staff and resources to provide staffing support to the task force, including providing data and analysis, preparing the report to the Legislature, and hiring American Sign Language interpreters for task force meetings.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 3412 be amended by the –3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”