



February 5, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

I am writing to urge your strong support for House Bill 4082, which allocates vital funding for summer learning programs. This investment is not just about offering children enriching activities during their downtime; it is about building a stronger future for our state, fueled by a well-prepared and thriving workforce.

Summer learning programs are essential for whole student development. While the traditional school year plays a crucial role, the long summer months can lead to learning loss and skill regressions. These programs bridge the gap, offering engaging opportunities that reinforce classroom learning, develop critical thinking, and nurture creativity. By participating in hands-on, inquiry-based, and project-based activities, students not only deepen their academic understanding but also cultivate vital skills such as collaboration, communication, and problem-solving – skills highly sought after in today's job market.

Investing in summer learning is also a workforce imperative. We know many parents struggle to afford traditional childcare options during the summer months. This often leads to a difficult choice: either forgo professional opportunities or leave their children unsupervised, potentially impacting their academic progress and overall well-being. By providing subsidized support for summer programs, we empower parents to pursue their education and careers while ensuring their children are safe, engaged, and continuing to learn valuable skills.

This approach delivers win-win outcomes:

- **Students:** Gain valuable knowledge, develop essential skills, and avoid summer learning loss, preparing them for future academic and professional success.
- **Parents:** Can confidently pursue their goals knowing their children are cared for and engaged in enriching activities.
- **Workforce:** Benefits from a future generation better equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the 21st century economy.

Therefore, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 4082. This investment in summer learning programs is not simply an expense; it is a strategic investment in our children, our families, and the future of our workforce. Let's build a brighter tomorrow by ensuring every child can learn, grow, and thrive throughout the year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget Dazey, Executive Director, CWP