

To: Chairs Girod, Chair Holvey and members of the subcommittee,
Re: SB 1552A, Sections 12 and 14
From: Carol Greenough, Ph.D.

I applaud the work that has gone into this complex bill and the revisions and improvements it brings to legislation affecting our educational system. Thank you for all the hard work you and others have done to accomplish this.

I am taking this opportunity to express a hope that the plan to evaluate the Quality Education Model including determining best practices within the model will lead to a wide look at where our education systems need to change. In a post pandemic world, faced with everything from AI to a disruption of democracy, our schools are more important than ever - but don't have the resources to respond to all that we ask of them. So I ask that we:

- Use this legislation to **create a Quality Education Model** that assures a quality education for all of our students and that reflects the concerns of educators, students and parents in today's world. This must include the role schools play in:
 - Educating our students for a changing world in ways that engage and uplift them
 - Assuring that all students have what they need to succeed
 - Transporting students
 - Providing child care and education throughout the year
 - Providing a safe place for students
 - Assuring students have access to positive support, good physical and mental health, and a healthy school environment
 - Educating all students, including those with challenging behavioral and physical health problems
 - Providing culturally relevant education
 - Serving as a center for education for parents and the community
 - Employing, educating, and supporting our educator workforce
- **Include all relevant groups in the creation of this model** including classroom educators, parents, and students
- **Build on past work** including the extensive outreach completed as part of the Student Success Act
- **Identify all sources of funding for education**, its intended purposes and shortfalls that exist to achieve a quality education.
- **Identify changes in ways we could fund education**, including looking at possible alternative sources to enhance funding, such as expanded Medicaid, use of the personal kicker, or revisions in tax code.

- Establish a way to **assure consistent funding** for our schools, including a possible expanded rainy day fund.
- Acknowledge the **diversity of local districts** at the same time as identifying **common needs and expectations**.
- The QEC stated that they believe that the QEM should not be restricted by Department of Administrative Services Current Service Level calculations in this manner. The 2022 QEM did not employ this scaling factor and it will not be employed moving forward. I support this.

Again, I thank your committee and the many others who have worked on this for your concern and for your service.