



April 5, 2017

Senator Darling, Representative Nygren, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to speak with you today and thank you for your work on this committee and for the many hours you have put in already and the many hours to come.

We don't always have a forum like this, where we get to gather as a larger community and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the students in my district for all of the hard work that they have been putting in over the last several years, I would like to thank the teachers in my district and all of the school staff members for their efforts on behalf of children.

I also want to thank you as members of the committee who have met with us and supported us in the initiatives and efforts that we are moving forward.

I appreciate the common focus that we have and the understanding that it will take all of us working together to bring about the improvement that we need for our students.

We know there are no shortcuts, creating the change we need to see takes hard work, it takes time and it takes resources.

Knowing that my time is limited, let me move right into the budget and stress the importance of the \$200 and \$204 per pupil increases proposed by Governor Walker and supported by Superintendent Evers. Those funds are essential to the welfare of our students and anything less will result in more significant cuts to school budgets. I ask for your support in meeting those funding levels.

We greatly appreciate the increased summer school funding proposed by the Governor and we ask that you couple that funding with the essential resource of time by reinstating our ability to set our school start date in a way that maximizes the time we have with our students through robust programming within our J-term.

We appreciate the funding focused on supporting students in Milwaukee. As part of urban/rural collaboration work we know that just as students in other parts of the state need resources for their particular contexts, we appreciate the focus on assisting students and schools in our city.

We would ask for additional support for our students with disabilities and we stand with districts across the state in asking for an increase in the reimbursement rate in that area.

We appreciate the focus on mental health and trauma informed care in this budget and for all of the collaborative work happening to support students. Thank you for your support in this area as well.

There is always more to discuss and I look forward to meeting with you as the process moves forward. Thank you again for your time today and for your collaboration in the work that we are doing at Milwaukee Public Schools.