

Date: December 9, 2020
To: Michigan Legislative Leadership and Appropriations Chairs

Re: Supporting those who have supported students during the pandemic

This school year has been unlike any other, and many have stepped up to make sure that children in their community remained safe and learning. High-quality out-of-school learning programs and other school-age child care providers have continued to provide for youth and families at significantly increased cost, but due to these financial pressures, many are not sure they will survive the school year. Adult and alternative educators have continued to provide instruction and transitioned their teaching just as regular K-12 educators have and are continuing to meet the needs of their respective learners, but were not recognized as eligible for hazard pay. This critical work will benefit our economy by preventing further learning loss and increasing future productivity, however, the costs of doing this work with little to no state support are catching up with programs.

The people who have made it their job to help educate and support Michigan's children, youth, and parents during this crisis deserve to stay in business. Understanding that remaining session days are in flux, and that available funds for a supplemental are limited, we write urging you to prioritize passing a supplemental budget before the end of session that includes:

- **\$3.5 million for relief for Out-of-School Time Learning programs (OST)**: Many community-based out-of-school time learning programs have continued to operate during the pandemic, providing critical learning aid for students, child care for parents, and nutrition and emotional support. However, many of these programs do not receive school-age child care program reimbursement. The demand for access to OST programs, which are proven to return on public investment, will only grow from here as we learn more about the depth of student learning loss. Shoring up those programs who have been working during the pandemic is a first step we can take to make sure OST programs are there for students.
- **\$10 million in School-Age Child Care Reimbursement**: Continuing to reimburse child care providers for work during what would normally be school hours will ensure that working families can find school-aged child care when they cannot access a quality OST program.
- **\$300,000 for Adult Education Instructor Hazard Pay**: Adult and alternative education teachers have continued to work with young people and parents towards earning their high-school degree and other skills, which will help them secure future employment and increased resources for their families in the future, improving their self-sufficiency. These educators utilize the College and Career Readiness Standards and teach according to the Michigan Merit Exam, however, adult and alternative educators, and their support staff, were not named eligible for the teacher hazard pay increase from recent legislative action.

We appreciate your work thus far and thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Matthew Gillard
President & CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Kurt Strehlke, Chair
Bank of America

Shaun Wilson, Vice Chair
Cadence

Tony Stamas, Treasurer
Midland Business Alliance

Directors

Jennifer Bowman
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

Kristen Kangas-Kraft
Blue Cross Shield of Michigan

Yazeed Moore
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Terry Murphy
Retired – Certified Public Accountant

Diana Wong
Eastern Michigan University

John Ziraldo
Commonwealth Consulting

Matthew Gillard
President and CEO