

June 12, 2024

Dear Chair Witwer,

Education in our state needs reinvention. We support the work of Launch Michigan, a cross-partisan group that represents a coalition of business, labor, philanthropy and education, and their efforts to make that reinvention a reality. To make progress on this reinvention, Launch Michigan has two budget requests for FY25; we are supportive of both.

Michigan Education Guarantee

The House budget, in section 99(10), charges Launch Michigan with defining the Michigan Education Guarantee, and specifically the “future ready skills and competencies” for all K-12 graduates in this state. It provides \$500,000 for Launch Michigan to engage in a development process of those skills and competencies with appropriate stakeholders and to produce a policy implementation roadmap with the legislation and implementation steps needed to enact that standard.

Efficiencies in Education

There is broad, bipartisan consensus that our public education system has untapped efficiencies that, if realized, could redirect more funding directly into Michigan classrooms. Recognizing this potential, the legislature appropriated \$5 million in the state school aid act (section 11x) to support local analyses of efficiencies within the preK-12 system and \$245 million in the School Consolidation and Infrastructure Fund (section 12c) to implement identified efficiencies.

To maximize the effectiveness of these dollars, we urge you to:

- **Preserve the funds allocated under sections 11x and 12c.** This work is crucial for the future of Michigan’s preK-12 education.
- **Name Launch Michigan as the technical assistance provider for the 12c funds** with the charge of working with K-12 districts and ISDs to ensure these funds are effectively utilized, results are tracked, and outcomes are implemented. (1% of the 12c funds OR \$1.5 million flat rate).
- **Allocate \$1.2 million of the 11x funds to Launch Michigan** to support statewide efficiency and consolidation studies and ensure their smooth, supported, and effective implementation.

By establishing efficiencies today, we can ensure that resources are directed toward student achievement in the future. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your support in advancing these critical initiatives for the betterment of Michigan’s public education system.

Sincerely,



Jeff Donofrio
President & CEO
Business Leaders for Michigan



Brian Calley
President & CEO
Small Business Association of Michigan



Sandy Baruah
President & CEO
Detroit Regional Chamber

Cc: Jen Flood, Director, State Budget Office, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks,
Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt, Speaker Joe Tate, & House Minority Leader Matt Hall.