

Ottawa Area Superintendents Association

Allendale Coopersville Grand Haven Hamilton Holland Holland Christian
Hudsonville Jenison OAISD Spring Lake Saugatuck West Ottawa Zeeland

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Andy Dillon
State House of Representatives
Room 166, Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Dillon,

The challenges facing Michigan are complex. While we all brace for what might be the toughest years yet, we encourage you to consider all options for improving the bleak financial outlook for public schools, including a thorough and expert look at Representative Dillon's proposal to explore a state-wide health insurance plan for all government employees. ***The issue of rising health insurance costs in public education will not be solved "one negotiations table at a time" in 600 school districts across Michigan.***

While the devil is in the details, it would be premature to dismiss this concept out of hand because some believe it to be operationally unfeasible or politically impossible. We encourage you to revisit the HayGroup Report issued in 2005, including its recommendations for an efficient state-wide structure. In addition, we invite you to review the development and the structure of the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool as a template for avoiding many of the pitfalls that could hinder the viability of a potential state-wide system.

And finally, we urge you to act with courage in what will no doubt be a difficult debate.

We look forward to reviewing the details of Representative Dillon's proposal and working with you on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

Karen McPhee, Ottawa Area ISD Superintendent, on behalf of:
The Ottawa Area Superintendents Association

Dr. Dan Jonker, Allendale
Keith Konarska, Grand Haven
Nick Ceglarek, Hudsonville
Glenn Vos, Holland Christian
Rolfe Timmerman, Saugatuck
Dr. Patricia Koeze, West Ottawa

Dr. Kevin O'Neill, Coopersville
Dr. Scott Korpak, Hamilton
Brian Davis, Holland
Tom TenBrink, Jenison
Dennis Furton, Spring Lake
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