



March 1, 2022

Honorable Members of the Education Committee  
MI House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative:

On behalf of public-school boards and superintendents from across the state, we are writing to you regarding House Bill 5859, which would establish a \$500 million learning loss recovery fund and vendor market administered through the Department of Treasury.

We oppose this legislation because it would create a half billion-dollar fund for private vendors that would not be accountable to the public or parents in any significant way. The bill lacks clearly defined criteria for allocating grants and does not include any way to measure a student's learning outcome. The legislation would charge the Department of Treasury with approving vendors without guidance on who qualifies for the vendor marketplace, aside from automatically approving vendors providing similar services in other states. The Department would be approving private vendors to provide various educational services with no guiderails or standards to use, which could lead to misuse of taxpayer dollars.

Much like when discussing the School Aid budget, we believe these funds would be best served going directly to the classroom, rather than a \$500 million categorical. Additionally, the bill is unclear as to what federal funds would be used, which could be a significant issue if the funds have restrictions from the federal government.

We appreciate the intent behind the legislation and certainly are supportive of efforts to address the issue of learning loss due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to working with the committee on how to best support our students and schools.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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