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WAYNE RESA
Leading... Learning for All

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LEADERSHIP
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EXCELLENCE

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November 28, 2018

To Chairman Tim Kelly and Members of the Michigan House Education Reform Committee:

Please accept this correspondence as feedback to bills that are pending in the Michigan legislature, SB 795, SB 796, HB 5368 and HB 6474. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts with you as you contemplate these bills.

As the Superintendent of Wayne RESA, and a long-time former Superintendent of a local district, I would ask that you allow such decisions related to the use of district union leadership be made at the local level. Currently local districts make individual determinations as it relates to the payment of union leadership, and they do so because the circumstances vary in each district. I am asking that this be allowed to continue.

In my experience, union release time was a benefit for our district, as we were able to work out assignments that were beneficial to the school district, such as coordinating required teacher mentoring responsibilities. It also allowed us access to leadership to cooperatively resolve employee or contract administration issues, saving the district time, money and productivity. Within a large school district with thousands of employees, we found this to be invaluable.

I understand that the circumstances may not be the same in every school district. That is why I ask that local control be preserved, so each district can do what is best for their school system.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing work on educational issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Randy A. Liepa, Ph.D.
Wayne RESA Superintendent

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