

# Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District

*"Educate the Child. Enrich the Community"*

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Alan Tulppo, Superintendent

Tammy Gibson, Business Manager

March 14, 2017

Michigan House Education Reform Standing Committee  
Representative Tim Kelly, Chair  
Room 521, House Office Building  
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Chairman Kelly and Committee Members:

I am writing to you to share my support for House Bill 4163, which would remove school year calendars and schedules from the collective bargaining process.

As a local school superintendent, having the ability to set an annual school calendar without having it related to the often cumbersome collective bargaining process would greatly improve the efficiency of district operations and our ability to assist students and parents. Families would have the ability to plan vacations, appointments, and other personal matters far enough in advance so that student absences could be reduced, thereby improving student performance in school.

The bill would improve the quality of education students receive because the calendar and schedule could be crafted to best reflect the educational needs of children, aside from collective bargaining issues related to salary, benefits, and other contractual matters.

I urge you and your members to advocate for support of this bill among the members of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan R. Tulppo".

Alan R. Tulppo  
Superintendent  
Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District