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Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR DEB PETERS, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN CRONIN, CO-CHAIR

April 1, 2016

Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary
Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2016 Session

Dear Dr. Schopp:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations relating to your appropriation approved in the FY2017 General Appropriations Act (SB172). As such, it supplements the appropriation with a specific guideline as approved on March 29, 2016. While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests on the long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and will be used by the Joint Committee on Appropriations as one basis for fiscal oversight of your agency.

SB172 provided $150,000 in general funds for the purpose of reinstating funding for stipends to National Board Certified Teachers, pursuant to SDCL 13-42-26. It is the intent of the Committee that these funds also be used to reinstate funding for stipends to National Certified School Counselors, pursuant to SDCL 13-1-54. Procedures for distribution are clarified in ARSD 24:15:07.

For teachers or counselors who did not receive stipends during the period in which funding was not appropriated for these programs, it is the intent of the Committee that the Department of Education will reimburse the state's obligation to these individuals as outlined in referenced statutes.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/S/ Senator Deb Peters
Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

/S/ Representative Justin Cronin
Representative Justin Cronin
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management