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

June 24, 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 that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on <DATE>. While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency.

Under the provisions in HB1203, a student member of the National Guard is entitled to a benefit equal to fifty percent of tuition, either paid or credited to the Board of Regents or the technical institutes. As a result of other provisions in HB1203, the University Support Fee will be rolled into the cost of tuition at regental institutions, resulting in a sixty-seven percent increase in tuition benefit. This tuition change provides student members of the National Guard enrolled in a regental institution a greater benefit not available to those enrolled at a technical institute.

It is the intent of the Committee to provide a commensurate benefit to student members of the National Guard enrolled in a technical institute by increasing the benefit per credit hour by sixty-seven percent. In order to achieve this, the technical institute financial aid offices will credit the additional tuition benefit to student members of the National Guard beginning in FY2017 with the funds appropriated for postsecondary vocational education in SB172.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

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Representative Justin Cronin
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

DRAFT

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management
Mike Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute
Mark Wilson, Mitchell Area Technical Institute
Jeff Holcomb, Southeast Technical Institute
Dr. Ann Bolman, Western Dakota Technical Institute

DRAFT