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January 27, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to submit a letter of recommendation in strong support of Willie Jett's confirmation as the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Jett's experience as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent makes him well-suited to serve all students across the state of Minnesota.

As a former colleague of Commissioner Jett, I have had the opportunity to observe his steady leadership, sound decision-making, and deep commitment to ensuring all students have access to an equitable and excellent education. As an accomplished leader with a strong background in instructional practices and educational leadership, Commissioner Jet is poised and well-suited to lead the Minnesota Department of Education.

Commissioner Jett is known as a collaborative leader with a keen ability to build strong relationships with all stakeholders. He proactively reaches out to stakeholder groups to seek input and listen to their concerns and ideas. He develops strong connections with students, staff, parents, community partners, colleagues, and other educational institutions to build strong schools and communities.

Our state will be well-served by his vast experiences serving students in urban, suburban, and greater Minnesota as he transitions into his new role. These experiences will provide a valuable statewide perspective and a working understanding of the opportunities and challenges communities are currently facing.

The children and families of Minnesota will benefit from Commissioner Jett's steadfast commitment to building a world-class educational system that meets the needs of all learners. I look forward to his future contributions to the improvement of education in our state.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sayles-Adams, Ed.D. Superintendent Eastern Carver County Schools