

I would like to thank Chair Kunesh, ranking Minority Member Rarick and the members of this committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding SF2255. The Governor's budget proposal, as outlined in SF2255 eliminates merit pay for teachers, otherwise known as Q-comp. The elimination of Q-comp is a slap in the face to the 445 teachers in the Centennial School district who currently receive Q-comp. Our teachers work very hard and deserve their merit-based pay.

Eliminating Q-comp will blow a \$1.7 million hole in our budget. It is not realistic to assume that the district can simply make up for this shortfall. We are already dealing with underfunded mandates that will cost Centennial Schools roughly \$1 million if not addressed this session. Combined with the elimination of Q-comp, that is a very significant cost burden to place on a property poor school district like Centennial. Without significant levy equalization, we simply can't do it.

On behalf of our teachers and the students they serve, I'm asking that you please restore and fully fund Q-comp.

Best Regards,

Tom Knisely

Chair, Centennial School Board