



## Washington State Legislature

September 13, 2010

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

We support your efforts to ensure Washington State provides all students opportunities to earn a meaningful high school diploma that prepares students for success in life after high school.

In 2009, the Legislature passed ESHB 2261 which redefined basic education. This reform legislation included an unequivocal commitment to provide 24 credits as part of basic education and to require 24 credits to graduate:

*The instruction program of basic education provided by each school district shall include instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete **twenty-four** credits for high school graduation, subject to a phased-in implementation of the twenty-four credits as established by the state board of education under RCW 28A.230.090. [emphasis added]*

This 24-credit graduation requirement from the State sends a clear message to every school, parent and student that we are serious about raising expectations and standards. We owe this to our students.

We understand that at your September 15th and 16th meeting the State Board of Education will be considering several variations of 24 credits designed to give students more flexibility. While we support giving students choices, we believe the key consideration must be that all students are provided opportunities to meet the requirements to succeed in post-secondary education, apprenticeship or training programs. Being prepared for success in life after high school must be our standard for a meaningful high school diploma.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the students of Washington State.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Marcie Maxwell in cursive.

Representative Marcie Maxwell, 41<sup>st</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Reuven Carlyle in cursive.

Representative Reuven Carlyle, 36<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Bruce Dammeier in cursive.

Representative Bruce Dammeier, 25<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Bruce Dammeier, 25<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Ross Hunter, 48<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Eric Oemig, 45<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Tina Orwall, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



Representative Skip Priest, 30<sup>th</sup> District



Representative Pat Sullivan, 47<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Rodney Tom, 48<sup>th</sup> District