



# Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RICHMOND

November 1, 2017

The Honorable S. Chris Jones  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
P. O. Box 5059  
Suffolk, Virginia 23435-0059

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
P.O. Box 6205  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
P.O. Box 2  
Mt. Solon, Virginia 22843-0002

Dear Chairmen,

As you know, the 2017 General Assembly adopted new budget language (Item 1, paragraph T.5., Chapter 836, 2017 Acts of Assembly), that established a workgroup of the staff of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees to facilitate with various state agencies an examination of options and determination of necessary actions to manage the quality and costs of private day educational programs funded through the Children's Services Act (CSA).

The purpose of the workgroup was specifically directed to review the following options: (i) the transfer of the CSA funding pool for private day education to the Department of Education; (ii) identification and collection of data to assess private day placements; (iii) identification of resources for transition of students from private day placements to a less restrictive environment; (iv) assessment of the role of Local Education Agencies regarding placements and measuring outcomes of private day education programs; and, (v) an assessment of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process with regards to private day placements.

As you may know, the workgroup has engaged with a variety of stakeholders over the last several months to learn and better understand the issues surrounding the placement of children into private day schools. The result of these activities to date has led to a number of research questions that staff propose to continue to explore after the 2018 Session. The complexity and magnitude of the issue will require additional time next year for the staff workgroup to develop meaningful

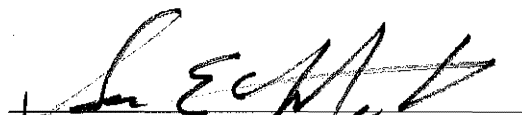
The Honorable S. Chris Jones  
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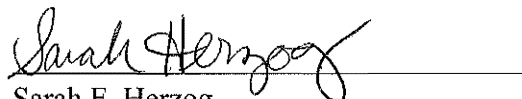
recommendations for the General Assembly to address issues of concern the workgroup identifies.


In the meantime, a meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2017. At that meeting, the staff will present additional information on issues and activities completed to date. In addition, presentations from the other speakers on the Children's Services Act and from the Department of Education will provide the latest information relevant to the issue of private day placements. Invited testimony from a variety of stakeholders will also be included as part of the meeting.

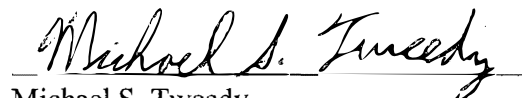
The budget language governing the workgroup directed it to prepare a report of any preliminary findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, by November 1, 2017. The workgroup will submit a concise report summarizing the workgroup's activities and recommendations shortly after the November 29 meeting to address the reporting requirement.

With Best Regards,

  
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Susan E. Massart  
Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
House Appropriations Committee

  
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Sarah E. Herzog  
Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Senate Finance Committee

  
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Susan L. Hogge  
Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
House Appropriations Committee

  
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Michael S. Tweedy  
Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Senate Finance Committee

cc: Robert Vaughn, Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee  
Laura Wilborn, Information Processing Specialist, Dept. of Legislative Automated Systems