

5/20/2022 1:00 PM

Sen. Roger Chamberlain and Legislative Leaders,

We appreciate the Senate's continued recognition of the importance of the Special Education cross-subsidy and continue to believe similar investments need to be made to reduce the cross-subsidy in English Learner funding. Our current offer would buy down the special education cross-subsidy and the EL cross subsidy by the same percentage. As was stated in our earlier offer from 5/17 and during conference committee the House does not recognize an offer that does not contain significant investments in the mental health and well-being of our students.

This current House offer shows more than half of the joint budget framework invested in buying down the special education cross subsidy. The remaining funding is allocated to the English language learners' cross subsidy, continuing expiring seats in the voluntary pre-kindergarten program, systemic investments in academic supports for the BOLD literacy plan and a comprehensive mental health package. These are priority items that the House will insist be in a final agreement.

In order to show cooperation this offer also contains the flexibility for the Senate and House to fund additional priorities with what is remaining on the bottom line, an equal amount of \$20 million in FY23 and \$2,070,000 in FY24/FY25, with a lesser amount allocated for the administration.

Lastly, the House is providing the Senate with a list of no-cost policy items to consider in response to the second offer from the Senate that includes critical policy provisions that respond to the needs of Minnesota students.

We have very little time remaining to get to a final deal, Senator Chamberlain, and the students, families and school communities of Minnesota have been very clear what is needed in this moment to meet the needs of our littlest learners through post-secondary. This offer from the House reflects these urgent requests and we expect some movement from the Senate towards what the students and families are asking us to do.

Chair Davnie