



March 13, 2023

To: Chair Youakim and Members of the House Education Finance Committee

Subject: House #345

Dear Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter for Pillsbury United Communities in support of their newly developed "Equity Framework." As executive director of Ubah Medical Academy, and a member of the focus group during the development of the framework, I believe this framework has been created with students' best interest in mind. I fully support it because it promotes inclusive education for all students regardless of ability.

With a goal of inclusivity in mind, PUC had effectively communicated the logic behind this new framework to make sure that all stakeholders get relevant information. This is not a "one size fits all" policy that PUC will be imposing on its schools. Rather, All PUC portfolio schools have participated in the process of developing this framework, which means we all had our voices heard before the program can be fully implemented.

As each one of the participating schools understood this, the framework guides schools to focus on the whole child. The framework provides a path for schools to ensure that every student is safe, healthy, engaged, and challenged. This is a huge win for our students.

Equally important, I like how the equity framework requires schools to develop parent and community engagement programs that will measure families and community involvement in school decision making and their children's education. Fostering a social connection with families is a crucial component to the success of a learning community.

Subsequently, schools will have ample opportunities to collect data on various aspects of the school to make sound decisions that are grounded on the needs of all students. The data collected on areas of the diversity of students, student support services, social and emotional mental health support, and practical, relevant curriculum are all designed to give us feedback on how schools can improve educational equity, student learning and wellbeing.

In summary, this collaborative partnership between PUC and portfolio schools had yielded a better framework than its predecessors, and committees and other concerned teams should endorse it.

Thank you for your commitment to the children and families in our communities.

Sincerely,

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