

December 2, 2020

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Honorable Members,

On behalf of the Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators, I write in support of House Bill 4342 (H3) and urge your support of this legislation.

HB 4342 provides temporary, but immediate relief to help address staffing issues in our schools. As district leaders juggle the many challenges in educating 1.5 million children during a pandemic—expansion of internet services, purchasing of devices, increased sanitation and supplies, increased busing and staffing to maintain safe distances, procurement and distribution of PPE for staff and students—they also face issues with fully staffing classrooms when teachers are not able to report for health reasons. Allowing for school employees to serve in temporary substitute teaching roles this year, will help alleviate the substitute teacher shortage facing every district. In an effort to keep classrooms open, current employees are familiar to students, they are familiar with district COVID-19 protocols, and are best suited to step in should staffing become a challenge.

We are appreciative of the bill sponsor's willingness to work with education stakeholders on this pressing issue and we encourage lawmakers to pass HB 4342 to help keep Michigan classrooms open safely.

Sincerely,



Peter Spadafore, Deputy Executive Director
Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators
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