

Dean Plocher
State Representative
Missouri's 89th District



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Dean Plocher
Speaker of the House
Missouri House of Representatives

April 30, 2024

Majority Leader Cindy O'Laughlin
201 W. Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Majority Leader Cindy O'Laughlin,

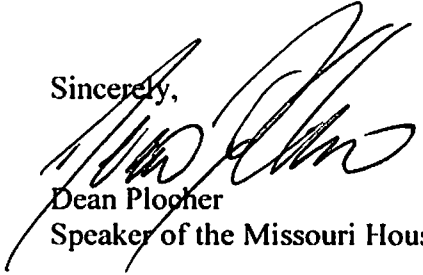
I write to congratulate you and your staff's efforts in passing the Education Suite SB 727/HB 2287 and to discuss the pending House priorities before the Senate.

To listen to the media outlets and lobbyists from the outset of this session, there was little confidence that any substantive legislation would be placed before the Governor this year. You navigated not one, but two, substantive bills through a fractious senate and were instrumental in working with House members to adopt the senate's revisions. Education reform had been a caucus priority for many years. The feat is nothing short of remarkable, and I greatly appreciate your statesmanship and support throughout the process to pass the largest education bill in Missouri's history.

Another caucus priority is initiative petition reform. While others may attempt to claim IP reform as solely their issue, IP reform is a House priority. The IP reform bill which passed the House reflects nearly a decade's worth of work among myself and others. The senate had the opportunity to pass IP reform last year, but was filibustered. Consequently, the matter never received a vote last session. During winter caucus, there was residual animosity and House members were reticent to take up senate bills this session. The House has succeeded in passing senate bills this session in anticipation that IP reform will be addressed this session. Given the few weeks left before session concludes, time is running out for the Senate to address IP reform. To avoid a replay of last year, it is imperative that we pass IP reform as soon as practicable. This year I strongly urge the Senate to take IP reform up now and avoid the situation where IP reform dies on the floor of the Senate again.

There remain other matters that must be addressed, including the federal reimbursement allowance and budget. As you know, I have been committed to passing a clean FRA. That can best be accomplished by first addressing IP Reform, then taking up the FRA and the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Plocher', written in a cursive style.

Dean Plocher
Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives