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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Washington State Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

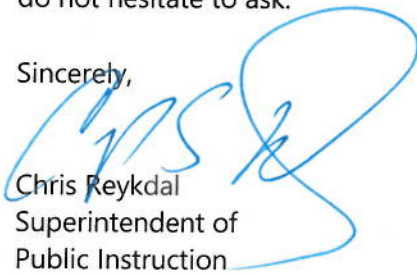
Please accept this letter of support for the **Poverty Reduction Work Group (PRWG)'s 10-year Plan for the Future to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state**. For the past two years, PRWG has worked diligently to develop a plan that, if implemented, will meaningfully and measurably reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state. I am grateful to you for your support of poverty reduction, and look forward to bringing the plan to action.

Reducing poverty and inequality is critically important to the mission of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Our vision is all students are prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement. Students experiencing poverty have drastically lower graduation rates than their peers, and students who drop out of school have higher unemployment rates, higher health-care costs, lower life expectancy, and they rely on government assistance more often. In contrast, a successful K-12 education experience that prepares all students for their post-secondary aspirations can be life changing, potentially serving as a springboard out of poverty.

We believe the Poverty Reduction Work Group's immediate recommendations and strategies to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state will lay a strong foundation for the full implementation of the plan over the next 10 years, and provide immediate, urgent relief for the 1.8 million Washingtonians currently struggling to make ends meet in communities throughout our state.

Thank you for supporting the PRWG and your passion for making Washington state a place where every child, adult, and family can thrive. If we can do anything further to support this effort, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Chris Reykdal
Superintendent of
Public Instruction