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August 20, 2009

The Future of Career Ladder

Missouri teachers are the backbone of our schools and are vital to providing Missouri students a world-class education opportunity. Recently, there has been a lot of confusion over the future funding of an important professional development program called Career Ladder. Please know, I remain dedicated to and I am committed to supporting this program and funding into the future.



Career Ladder fosters teachers' involvement within the communities they serve. Missouri's Teacher Career Ladder program gives supplemental pay to teachers for extra educational instruction to students, which is financed by the state and local school districts. Many teachers spend time before and after school tutoring students who need help, sponsoring clubs and other extracurricular organizations, and working to enhance classroom instruction and curriculum. Career Ladder provides teachers with the supplemental income they earn for the countless hours they spend in training, preparing for classes, and working to

guarantee the success of each student. It is anticipated that continued state funding of Career Ladder would provide more than \$710,000 to Southeast Missouri teachers next year.

Career Ladder's future became a focus when Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin) and Rep. Allen Icet (R-St. Louis County) sent a June 15, 2009 letter to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) warning that the program may not be fully funded for the 2009-2010 school year. Career Ladder is funded uniquely, with funding provided retroactively. For example, the current budget, which we crafted this past session, provided approximately \$37 million for Career Ladder during the 2008-2009 school year.

I want to make clear that the letter sent by Sen. Nodler and Rep. Icet to DESE does not reflect my views on this matter, nor is it a statement of the General Assembly's intention. Sen. Nodler and Rep. Icet were wrong to send the letter. Both have used their respective positions to create new government programs that cost more than Career Ladder and now they advocate killing this proven program. Such actions send a terrible message to our teachers. Career Ladder is a proven program that has my full support.

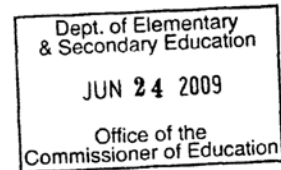


Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.



MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JEFFERSON CITY



June 15, 2009

Dr. Bert Schulte
Commissioner of Education
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480

Commissioner Schulte,

This letter is to inform you of the intent of the 95th General Assembly, First Regular Session with regard to the operating appropriation for the Career Ladder Program.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2010 appropriation for Career Ladder will be the last appropriation made in arrears for this program. The General Assembly cannot assure that participants in the Career Ladder Program for the 2009-2010 school year and beyond will be supported by state appropriation, and these potential participants should be notified of these changes.

The General Assembly reserves the right to appropriate money for the Career Ladder program for future years in advance of the school year rather than in arrears, if state revenues allow.

Please feel free to contact the staffs of the House Budget Committee or Senate Appropriations Committee for additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Allen Icet in black ink.

Allen Icet, Chairman
House Budget Committee

Handwritten signature of Gary Nodler in black ink.

Gary Nodler, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee

cc: Dan Haug
Larry W. Schepker
Linda Luebbering

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