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Campaign for Student Success Commends Senate and House Bipartisan Bills to Expand Career and Technical Support

***Newly Introduced SB 5758 and HB 2075 Will Increase
Washington's Graduation Rate, Put Student Need First***

"A step in the right direction for McCleary"

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Today, the [Campaign for Student Success](#), a coalition-led effort to urge Washington legislators to develop sustainable, student-oriented solutions to *McCleary* that do more than just fund the existing system, announced its support for the newly introduced [SB 5758](#) and companion bill [HB 2075](#). The bipartisan bills, sponsored by Senators Rivers, Rolfes, Keiser, Frockt, Wellman and Representative Pettigrew would expand career and technical education and dual-credit programs in the state, as well as implement much needed interventions for struggling Washington students. Specifically, SB 5758/HB 2075 would provide real world skills and training to students and additional support and counseling for middle school and high school students. SB 5758/HB 2075 would also expand college-level courses in high schools. The bill is aimed at improving the statewide graduation rate, for which Washington is currently ranked 41st nationally.

"Programs like Career and Technical Education and Dual-Credit will provide pathways and opportunities to all Washington students, including the thousands of students who year after year don't make it on to their graduation stage," explained Dave Powell of Stand for Children Washington. "It's more critical than ever we increase college and career readiness for students in all four corners of

Washington state. While we acknowledge this bill is just a piece of what we must accomplish for students this year in Olympia, it's an important step forward."

"SB 5758 and HB 2075 is an investment in our kids and our state's future. We need a well-educated and diverse workforce to fill jobs in growing fields that are critical to Washington's economic prosperity," urged Powell. "SB 5758 and HB 2075 is a meaningful step in ensuring our students – and our state – are prepared for the 21st century."

The bill is modelled after Oregon's successful Measure 98 which was passed with overwhelming bi-partisan and voter support last year and will make a difference for thousands of students.

The **Campaign for Student Success** formed earlier this year under the simple premise that we are not asking the right questions about the *McCleary* solution to ensure that student success is at the forefront of every decision the legislature makes this session. The campaign is made up of a diverse group of parents, education advocates, community leaders and fighters for equity, united in its belief all students, regardless of background, deserve a world-class education. The **Campaign for Student Success** is urging Governor Inslee and Washington legislators to put forward student-focused solutions to *McCleary* to ensure every student in all four corners of the state have access to a great education. As part of its effort to invite Washington parents and students to share their hopes for the future of schools, the campaign launched its first TV ad, "[What If](#)," which premiered during the Seahawks Divisional Round matchup.

The **Campaign for Student Success** is built on three key policy pillars that will shape the conversation about *McCleary* in Olympia, and serve as the foundation for this unique coalition:

- **Funding & Fairness:** Sufficient funding must also be equitable and fair, meaning we must support those students who need it most;
- **Talent:** Educator compensation must be funded with a focus on equity, growing the pipeline of excellent educators and matching them with students who need the most help;
- **Accountability:** Funding and talent must be accompanied by a robust accountability system that sets clear goals, tracks progress over time, and provides appropriate supports and programs for under-performing schools and struggling students.

The coalition boasts a growing and diverse list of members, including League of Education Voters, Equity in Education Coalition, Stand for Children Washington, Democrats for Education Reform Washington, Washington State Association for Head Start and ECEAP, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition and the Statewide Poverty Action Network. For a full list of coalition members, visit the [Campaign for Student Success's website](#).

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