

Wrestling with education funding and reform

Our children deserve our best

State Sen. Steve Litzow and Rep Eric Pettigrew are to be commended for their bipartisan leadership by advancing meaningful reforms that will improve student learning and teacher quality in our state.

Research and evidence clearly show children learn best in schools with high-performing principals and teachers who are committed to lifelong improvement and professional growth.

House Bill 2428 would bring additional expertise from universities and nonprofits to partner with schools in accelerating student achievement. Research and evidence from programs like our local Business Partnership for Early Learning also clearly demonstrate that kids are born learning and that quality early-childhood programs can significantly decrease the preparedness gap for kids of different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds before they enter kindergarten.

Business people in our state fully recognize that the workforce of tomorrow needs quality educational programs at all points along the pre-K through high school and college spectrum. By investing in our children, we'll be building our future prosperity. Our children deserve nothing less, and it's long past time for the adults to do more of what is right on their behalf.

— *Kevin C. Washington, Seattle*