

TESTIMONY OF

**Joe Morrisette, Director of the Office of Management and Budget**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Joe Morrisette, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). I am here to testify in support of Engrossed House Bill 1394, which appropriates moneys authorized in the December 2020 COVID-19 Economic Relief Bill.

The Office of Management and Budget is listed in subdivision 1 of this bill for the portion of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II) funds to be received by OMB on behalf of the Governor's Office. OMB will serve as the fiscal agent and will manage the distribution and reporting on these funds. The grant process will be managed by the Governor's Office.

The funds can be used for the same purposes as the GEER funds received during the 2019-21 interim as part of the CARES Act. Allowable uses of funds include preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. It is anticipated the funds will be distributed to local education agencies based on a formula to support education workforce retention initiatives. There is an additional \$4 million of GEER II funding included in subdivision 3 which will be received by and distributed by the Department of Public Instruction to provide assistance to non-public schools.

OMB submitted an application on February 22, 2021 to receive these funds on behalf of the Governor's office.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, this concludes my testimony. I ask for your support for Engrossed House Bill 1394. I would be happy to answer any questions.