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October 18, 2017

Ms. Betsy Cohen
Executive Director
St. Louis Mosaic Project/St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
120 South Central, Suite 1200
St. Louis, MO 63105

RE: SUPPORT FOR SEAL OF BILITERACY ON MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Dear Ms. Cohen,

I write on behalf of the St. Louis Regional Chamber in support of the state of Missouri offering students the chance to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy on their high school transcripts.

Workforce alignment is essential for the development of a global economy and is critical for the St. Louis region. As such, twenty-seven states have enacted a Seal of Biliteracy at the high school level which certifies moderate-high skill in two or more languages, and ultimately enhances students' qualifications and credentials when entering the workforce.

Over the years, the St. Louis region has benefitted from economic strengths within the sectors of financial & information services, health, biosciences, and logistics as well as a significant startup ecosystem. These growing sectors must be supplemented by a more diversified and biliterate talent pool to drive economic development and strengthen our region.

The Regional Chamber fully supports creating an opportunity for Missouri students to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy on their high school transcripts as proof of their proficiency in two or more languages.

Sincerely,

s/Hart Nelson
Vice President of Public Policy