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January 20, 2009

Members of the Colorado House and Senate Education Committees,

As Chairman of the Quality Teachers Commission and pursuant to C.R.S. 22-68-104 (3), I submit to you the attached report that outlines the outcomes of the Commission's efforts to fulfill their duties over the past year.

The commission has existed for approximately one year. As reported to you under this statutory provision a year ago, Senate Bill 07-140 authorized the governor to appoint a commission to assess the development and implementation of a unique teacher identifier system that would be integrated with existing and emerging educational databases (C.R.S. 22-68-101, et. seq.). The commission is also charged with examining the teacher gap and recommending ways to effectively address it. Additionally, the commission is expected to develop policy tools to assist school districts in closing the teacher gap.

On July 1, 2008, the commission submitted its first-year report of recommendations that supported the creation of a pilot teacher and principal identifier protocol and included details on policies to guide the pilot. That report is attached. A bill to establish the pilot has been introduced in the 2009 General Assembly (HB 09-1065). The July report also noted that the commission reviewed the teacher gap in Colorado, as required by state statute, and would continue to work on this task. Since this report, the commission has examined a variety of policy tools to assist schools and districts in improving teacher quality and in closing the teacher gap.

The commission is being staffed by the Colorado Department of Education, specifically Lisa Medler (Title IIA and Highly Qualified Coordinator) and Jami Goetz (Director of the Office of Licensing and Professional Services). The commission met on bi-monthly basis until June, and has met on a monthly basis during fall 2008.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. The commission would be glad to present its work per this report to the education committees. We will also respond to any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Groginsky, Chairman
Quality Teachers Commission

Quality

Scott Groginsky, Commission Chair, Gilpin County Re-1 School Board
Nate Howard, Commission Vice-Chair, Principal in Denver Public Schools

Nella Anderson, Director of Teacher Education at Western State College
Maria del Carmen Salazar, Assistant professor at the University of Denver
Ian Macgillivray, Teacher Education/Academic Policy Officer for the
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Matt Gianneschi, Senior policy analyst for Gov. Bill Ritter
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Bill Hodges, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources with Douglas
County Schools

Evie Hudak, Member of the Colorado State Board of Education from
Congressional District 2

Lisa Kramer, Parent in Littleton
Jacqueline Paone, Executive director of the Alliance for Quality Teaching
Deidre Roque, Teacher in Pueblo

Kim Ursetta, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association

The Colorado Department of Education provides staff for the commission:
Lisa Medler, Office of Federal Programs Administration
Jami Goetz, Office of Licensing and Professional Services