

**From:** Suzanne Dale Estey <[Suzanne@daleesteyresults.com](mailto:Suzanne@daleesteyresults.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2020 8:06 PM

**To:** Balducci, Claudia <[Claudia.Balducci@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Claudia.Balducci@kingcounty.gov)>; Dembowski, Rod <[Rod.Dembowski@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Dembowski@kingcounty.gov)>; Dunn, Reagan <[Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov)>; Kohl-Welles, Jeanne <[Jeanne.Kohl-Welles@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jeanne.Kohl-Welles@kingcounty.gov)>; Lambert, Kathy <[Kathy.Lambert@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Kathy.Lambert@kingcounty.gov)>; McDermott, Joe <[Joe.McDermott@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Joe.McDermott@kingcounty.gov)>; Upthegrove, Dave <[Dave.Upthegrove@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Dave.Upthegrove@kingcounty.gov)>; von Reichbauer, Pete <[Pete.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Pete.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov)>; Zahilay, Girmay <[Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov)>

**Cc:** Sarah Brady <[brady@childcare.org](mailto:brady@childcare.org)>; Nicole Yohalem <[nyohalem@ccedresults.org](mailto:nyohalem@ccedresults.org)>; Rene Murry <[RMurry@ydekc.org](mailto:RMurry@ydekc.org)>; Kyla Lackie <[klackie@psed.org](mailto:klackie@psed.org)>; Colleen Laing <[claing@uwkc.org](mailto:claing@uwkc.org)>; Theresa Fujiwara <[tfujiwara@uwkc.org](mailto:tfujiwara@uwkc.org)>; Jennifer Ziegler <[jennifer@zieglerv.com](mailto:jennifer@zieglerv.com)>; Muhm, Jeff <[Jeff.Muhm@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jeff.Muhm@kingcounty.gov)>; Logsdon, Kristina <[Kristina.Logsdon@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Kristina.Logsdon@kingcounty.gov)>; Lewis, Rhonda <[Rhonda.Lewis@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Lewis@kingcounty.gov)>; Brown, Dylan <[Dylan.Brown@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Dylan.Brown@kingcounty.gov)>; Cooper, Adam <[Adam.Cooper@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Adam.Cooper@kingcounty.gov)>; Fowler, Jonathan <[Jonathan.Fowler@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Fowler@kingcounty.gov)>; Phibbs, Diana <[Diana.Phibbs@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Diana.Phibbs@kingcounty.gov)>; Camenzind, Krista <[Krista.Camenzind@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Krista.Camenzind@kingcounty.gov)>; Cavazos, Madeline <[Madeline.Cavazos@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Madeline.Cavazos@kingcounty.gov)>; Pichette, Tyler <[Tyler.Pichette@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Tyler.Pichette@kingcounty.gov)>; Lahmann, Grant <[Grant.Lahmann@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Grant.Lahmann@kingcounty.gov)>; Nguyen, Lan <[Lan.Nguyen@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Lan.Nguyen@kingcounty.gov)>; [Ellen.Porter@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Ellen.Porter@kingcounty.gov); Arya, Erin <[Erin.Arya@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Erin.Arya@kingcounty.gov)>; Brown, Dylan <[Dylan.Brown@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Dylan.Brown@kingcounty.gov)>; Eccles, Cody <[Cody.Eccles@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Cody.Eccles@kingcounty.gov)>

**Subject:** Letter in Support of PSTAA Implementation Plan

**Importance:** High

Councilmembers & Staff –

Attached is a letter from a large and diverse coalition of supporters of the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA) and its crucial investments. This letter reflects only a portion of the supporters of these funds and their intended use. As a cross-continuum, “Cradle to College and Career” coalition supporting PSTAA, we have appreciated your hard work over the past nearly three years to leverage PSTAA to make transformative investments in education services and facilities which will improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children and youth.

We urge the Council to support and adopt the PSTAA Implementation Plan. We ask that you act as quickly as possible to address the urgency of need.

Please let me or any of the signatories to this letter know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you –

Suzanne

Suzanne Dale Estey  
Dale Estey Partnerships, Strategy & Results  
[suzanne@daleesteyresults.com](mailto:suzanne@daleesteyresults.com)  
206-769-4217

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July 10, 2020

Members of the King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle WA 98104

Dear Councilmembers:

As a cross-continuum, “Cradle to College and Career” coalition supporting the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA), we have appreciated your hard work over the past nearly three years to leverage PSTAA to make transformative investments in education services and facilities which will improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children and youth. We urge the Council to support and adopt the PSTAA Implementation Plan. We ask that you act as quickly as possible to address the urgency of need.

As you know, PSTAA was created with the passage of Connecting Washington in 2015 to improve educational outcomes in King, Snohomish and Pierce Counties, particularly for children and youth who are low-income, homeless, and/or in the foster care system and/or impacted by the juvenile justice system, and other vulnerable children and youth over a long-term horizon from 2019-2034. We appreciate that King County has moved this rare opportunity forward through the Council establishing goals and principles for the use of PSTAA funds in December 2017 and after considerable process, the subsequent passage of priority areas of investment in August 2019. We also appreciate that the Council has spent an incredible amount of time establishing a thoughtful framework for PSTAA investment. It is time to move forward with PSTAA implementation.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the sustained uprising against racial injustices provide additional urgency for PSTAA implementation to move forward and investments to be made as quickly as possible. Children and youth of color and low-income children – the primary focus of PSTAA investments – have borne the public health and economic brunt of the coronavirus crisis and systemic racism. Homeless youth, youth in the foster care system, and youth impacted by the juvenile justice system are also disproportionately represented in low-income youth of color. The existing intersections of race, poverty, trauma and loss, emotional upheaval, transitions, and instability in their lives have been dramatically amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We need to take every opportunity to strategically respond, help them recover and ensure we have stronger and more responsive systems in the future. The comprehensive supports laid out in the PSTAA Implementation Plan are critical protective factors for children and youth, and are key to building their resilience and success.

As a unified coalition of stakeholders across the education continuum from early learning through higher education, we support your interests in moving forward with investing PSTAA funds to improve educational outcomes for the most disadvantaged in our communities including:

- Much-needed early learning facilities,
- Addressing the serious needs of school-age low-income youth of color through a partnership of agencies representing the very communities disproportionately impacted by inequities and discrimination, transforming systems to improving graduation rates for students of color, and

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- Providing critical navigation support to historically under-served students to access and succeed in higher education and addressing long-standing racial equity gaps by eliminating systemic failures through the King County Promise.

The Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account offers a unique opportunity to contribute to lasting educational change in King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties. As you can see from the broad range of signatories on this letter, there continues to be a large, active constituency intent on protecting these funds for vulnerable children and youth and moving forward with implementation as rapidly as possible.

We are here to support you and this process, and we appreciate your continued leadership and support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Basha Alexander, Project Director, Green River College

Holly Bamford Hunt, Executive Director, Bamford Foundation

Yusuf Bashir, Executive Director/Founder, Falis Community Service

David Beard, Policy & Advocacy Director, School's Out Washington

Laurie Black, President/CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of King County

Annie Blackledge, Executive Director, The Mockingbird Society

Ana Bonilla, Program Officer, Enterprise Community Partners

Jon Botten, CEO, Childhaven

Sarah Brady, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Child Care Resources

Russell Brooks, Executive Director, Red Eagle Soaring

Susan Brown, President and CEO, Kids Co.

Michael Byun, Executive Director, Asian Counseling and Referral Service

Vanessa Calonzo, Director of New Student Services, South Seattle College

Hazel Cameron, Executive Director, Clergy Community for Children Youth Coalition

Tammy Campbell, Superintendent, Federal Way Public Schools

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Deborah Casey, Ph.D., Vice President of Student Affairs, Green River College

Dr. Chemene Crawford, Interim President, North Seattle College

Suzanne Dale Estey, Dale Estey Partnerships, Strategy & Results

Clarence Dancer, Postsecondary Policy Advisor, City of Seattle, DEEL

Ranna Daud, Executive Director, After-School All-Stars Puget Sound

Charlie Davis, President & CEO, YMCA Pierce and Kitsap Counties

James Dorsey, President & CEO, College Success Foundation

Leslie Dozono, Principal, Elty Consulting

Steve Daschle, Executive Director, Southwest Youth and Family Services

Laura DiZazzo, Executive Director, Seattle Education Access

Monique Edwards, Youth Program Manager, Seattle Goodwill

Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, President, Seattle Central College

Susan Enfield, Ed.D., Superintendent, Highline Public Schools

Kelly Evans, Director, College Promise Coalition

Jordan Faralan, Communications + Community Engagement Manager, Powerful Voices

Mary Fertakis, CEO, M Fertakis Consulting, LLC

Richard Finley, Outreach and Engagement Director, Boys and Girls Club

David de la Fuente, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of Kent

Nichola Fulmer, College & Career Specialist, Renton High School

Joshua M Gerstman, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Highline College

Dorothy Gibson, Lead Organizer, Sound Alliance

Ross Gilliland, Manager, Third Sector Intelligence (3Si)

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Melinda Giovengo, CEO & President, YouthCare

Angela Griffin, Executive Director, Launch

Matt Griffin

Louis Guiden Jr., Community Intervention Manager, Good Shepherd Youth Outreach

Rickey Hall, Vice President & University Diversity Officer, University of WA Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity

Bill Hallerman, Agency Director, Catholic Community Services of King County

Karen Hart, President, SEIU 925

Mike Heinisch, Executive Director, Kent Youth and Family Services

Glenn Jackson, Director of High School Initiatives, Bellevue College

Dr. Suzanne Johnson, President, Green River College

Ruth Kagi, State Representative, retired, Children's Campaign Fund

Roslyn Kagy, Director of GEAR UP Achievers, Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, University of Washington

Ginger Kwan, Executive Director, Open Doors for Multicultural Families

Kyla Lackie, Director of Postsecondary, Puget Sound College & Career Network, PSESD

Laurie Lippold, Director of Public Policy, Partners for Our Children

Anne Marie Littleton, Re-engagement Counselor, Highline Public Schools

Eric Lopez, Manager of Community Relations, University of Washington Dream Project

James Madden, Director, Enterprise Community Partners

Jaimée Marsh, Executive Director, FEEST

Edgar Masmela, Partnership Director, Friends of the Children Seattle

Kevin McCarthy, President, Renton Technical College

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Gordon McHenry, Jr., CEO, United Way of King County

Cassy McKee, Executive Director, Reading Partners

Bernadette Merikle, Executive Director, Community Center for Education Results

James Miles, Executive Director, Arts Corps

Munira Mohamed, Executive Director, East African Community Service

John R. Mosby, Ph.D, President, Highline College

Erica Mullen, Executive Director, The Greater Seattle Bureau of Fearless Ideas

Rene Murry, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Youth Development Executives of King County

Sharonne Navas, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Equity in Education Coalition

Villette Nolon, CEO, Imagine Housing

Erin Okuno, Executive Director, Southeast Seattle Education Coalition

Ruel Olanday Jr., Community Impact Manager for Youth, United Way of King County

Estela Ortega, Executive Director, El Centro de la Raza

Nichelle Page, On Time Graduation Specialist, Tukwila School District

Melissa Pailthorp, Executive Director, Team Read

Shouan Pan, Ph.D., Chancellor, Seattle Colleges

Damien Pattenaude, Superintendent, Renton School District

Deeann Puffert, CEO, Child Care Aware of Washington

Dawn Rains, Chief Policy & Strategy Officer, Treehouse

Julia Reed, Vice Chair, King County Democrats

Katie Renschler, West Coast Director, Bainum Family Foundation

Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, President, South Seattle College

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Cheryl Roberts, President, Shoreline Community College

Joel Ryan, Executive Director, Washington State Association of Headstart & ECEAP

Erin Shea McCann, Deputy Director, Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)

Valisa Smith, Executive Director, The Ounce WA

Stephen Song, Executive Director, Community for Youth

Dr. Alan Spicciati, Superintendent, Auburn School District

Chris Strausz-Clark, Managing Principal, 3Si

Paula Steinke, Director, Soar

Naomi Tagaleo'o, Executive Director, Education with Purpose Foundation for Pacific Islanders

Guadalupe Torres, Executive Director, College Possible Washington

Kevin Truong, Executive Director, Hey Mentor

Molly Ward, Director of High School Instruction, South Seattle College

John P. Welch, Superintendent, Puget Sound Educational Service District

Makayla Wright, Youth Voice Organizing Manager, Soar

Loria Yeadon, President/CEO, YMCA of Greater Seattle