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April 29, 2025

Representative Jason Crow  
2170 S. Parker Road, Suite 280  
Aurora, CO 80231

Dear Representative Crow,

This letter expresses strong community support for Adams-Arapahoe School District 28J, doing business as Aurora Public Schools (APS), in its application for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding for Fiscal Year 2026. The requested funds will support the expansion of the Sable Child Development Center, increasing APS's capacity to serve more preschool-aged children and introducing new classrooms for infants and toddlers.

In 2022, the APS Board of Education voted to close Sable Elementary due to persistently low enrollment, and the school officially closed in the spring of 2023. That same year, to address a growing need for early childhood education in the community, APS developed a two-phase plan to repurpose the former elementary school into a Child Development Center (CDC). Phase 1 was completed in 2024, allowing the facility to reopen with both full-day and half-day preschool programs.

Currently, the center serves 135 APS preschool students ages 3 and 4. The former K–5 elementary facility was thoughtfully renovated to provide a safe, developmentally appropriate learning environment for young children. Phase 2 of the project will expand the use of additional classrooms to accommodate infants, toddlers, and more preschool-aged students, further enhancing access to high-quality early childhood education.

The City of Aurora proudly supports Aurora Public Schools in this funding request. The CDS investment of \$851,000.00 toward the total project cost of \$4.2 million will ensure the completion of the Sable Child Development Center. Once fully expanded for the 26-27 school year, the school will serve 288 children—256 preschoolers and 32 infants and toddlers each year.

The Sable CDC curriculum emphasizes language and literacy, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), social-emotional development, and mindfulness—laying a strong foundation to prepare children for kindergarten and lifelong success in an evolving world. This vital investment will significantly strengthen early childhood educational opportunities within the Aurora community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Coffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Coffman, Mayor  
Aurora, Colorado