Executive Summary - Education for the Next Generation: A Plan for a Brighter South Dakota Future

After a rodeo accident left Billie paralyzed, he realized just how important of an investment education really is. When his Plan A was taken from him, he still had a bright path forward thanks to his education. Billie believes every student in our great state deserves that positive outlook on their future. Starting in early childhood and throughout their adult lives, South Dakotans deserve world-class educational opportunities to ensure bright futures for our state and its families.

Sutton’s plan focuses on providing opportunities for quality education at every stage of life:

- **Early Childhood**: As one of a handful of states that doesn’t provide any state support for preschool, South Dakota is losing out on economic gains of $7-13 return for every dollar invested in early childhood education. Billie will work to study the need for early childhood education in South Dakota and look for ways to re-prioritize state spending so that funding is available for programs like early childhood education that will pay off well into the future.

- **K-12**: Billie has a record of fighting for our teachers and will continue to support them with regionally competitive teacher pay, tuition reimbursement program for teachers who work in underserved communities, and increased flexibility for school districts to best serve their students and communities. Billie will also work with high schools, both urban and rural, to make sure students are prepared for their next steps after graduation with greater dual-credit opportunities for students of all interests.

- **Higher Education**: Billie is focused on ensuring our students can afford an education in South Dakota. He’ll work to make higher education less expensive by increasing funding for needs-based scholarships and mitigating costs at state schools to make sure every student who wants to work toward a brighter future for South Dakota can afford the opportunity.

- **Lifelong Learners**: As an integral piece of workforce development, Billie knows education is important to more than just our young people. As governor, Billie will work to make educational opportunities accessible and affordable for people in all life’s stages by increasing access to scholarships and by encouraging creative education and training options like satellite classes, effective online degrees, and apprenticeship programs.

“When I look into the eyes of my two-year-old son, Liam, I recognize exactly the kind of bright tomorrows we must build for the next generations. Starting in early childhood and throughout their adult lives, South Dakotans deserve the chance to earn a brighter future through education and hard work.” – Billie Sutton

Read the entire *Education for the Next Generation Plan* at SuttonForSD.com