Amend reengrossed bill, page 2, after line 6 insert:

"(I) In the 2018-19 school year, statewide assessment data shows considerable achievement gaps as measured by assessment scores for Colorado students. The assessment scores on the statewide assessment in English language arts demonstrated that approximately forty-five percent of all Colorado students were performing at grade level, while approximately thirty percent of Latino or Black students and approximately twenty-eight percent of low-income students were performing at grade level. Similarly, the assessment scores on the statewide assessment in mathematics demonstrated that approximately thirty-five percent of all students were performing at grade level, while approximately eighteen percent of Latino or Black students and approximately eighteen percent of low-income students were performing at grade level.

(II) However, in Colorado there are also examples of schools and school districts in which a high percentage of low-income students and students of color break with these trends and meet or exceed grade-level expectations on statewide assessments; and

(III) In 1965, Congress passed the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965", 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq., to address persistent inequities for historically underserved students. Research shows that disparities in academic achievement are often caused by disparities in opportunities, such as the inequitable distribution of funding, preschool access, advanced course work, highly effective teachers, and wraparound services. Research also shows that Latino and Black students are more likely to have less-experienced and lower-paid teachers as a result of a gap in funding and more likely to be disciplined more harshly in school.

(b) The General Assembly further finds that:"

Reletter succeeding paragraph accordingly.

Page 3, after line 11, insert:

"(IV) One of the main goals of the statewide system of standards and assessments and the statewide education accountability system is to identify the areas in which schools and school districts are struggling, due to several factors, to best serve their students and ensure that those schools and school district are able to best serve their students;".

Renumber succeeding subparagraphs accordingly.

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