



MINNESOTA BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Eric Pratt
Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pratt and Members of the Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of SF 3342 (Housley), which is being presented today in committee.

The Minnesota Business Partnership is comprised of the 115 CEOs and senior leaders from Minnesota's largest employers. Since the Business Partnership was formed in 1977, one of our primary objectives has been to ensure Minnesotans are well-prepared for prepared for careers in the global economy.

We are greatly concerned about how education achievement gaps and labor force shortages are impacting Minnesota's workforce and the potential for future economic growth. As Minnesota's economy recovers from pandemic-related disruption, the linkage between economic growth and workforce development is more important than ever.

That is why the business community continues to support education and workforce development programs that partner with employers to build strong career pathways for current and future workers. Summit Academy OIC is a leader in not only training students for in-demand jobs but also in partnering with employers to do so. The results are evident: Summit graduates receive the training needed to attain employment and build their careers, and employers benefit from a well-prepared, skilled workforce.

The bill under consideration today would expand Summit's ability to offer programs to additional communities and students. By taking advantage of existing relationships and infrastructure, Summit will be able to partner with even more employers to train and connect students to in-demand jobs and careers. Strengthening the state's support for Summit Academy will help provide tuition-free career pathways for more Minnesotans and help our economy continue to grow.

For these reasons, the Minnesota Business Partnership strongly supports SF 3342. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Education and Workforce Development Director
Minnesota Business Partnership