

February 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of The Journey School, I would like to offer my support for bill SF 1760, Farm to School program establishment and appropriation. The Journey School is a charter school located in urban St. Paul, MN. We serve a population of 85% free and reduced lunch, and we are a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school.

The Farm to School program has been such a blessing to our school to serve an inner-city population, limited by gardening space, fresh produce, and healthy, organic food options. We are able to use this programming to help our population realize so many positive things concerning food, nutrition, and overall health. This programming is important to our children, their families, and our community as a whole.

Passage of this bill would allow us to further explore and create new farm to school partnerships with growers in our community, other areas, and beyond to provide an opportunity to expand our product procurement (honey, maple syrup, grains, wild rice, beef, etc.) while maintaining our budget and fiscal responsibility to our community.

We fully support this bill and look forward to growing our farm to school program because it is what's best for our students and our community.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gostchock