



**March 6, 2023**

**TO: Chair Cwodzinski and Member of the Senate Education Policy Committee**

**RE: SF 1311 — Article 4 – Charter Schools**

**The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools supports** all the provisions in SF 1311 Article 4 – Charter Schools, and we urge the enactment of these provisions. We are especially grateful to see the “Market Need & Demand Study” and the CMO/EMO Transparency and Accountability provisions.

The “Market Need & Demand Study” provisions were developed over the last three plus years by the Association in cooperation with authorizers, and MDE. Over the last decade there has been a growing concern about the number of schools approved by authorizers which never open, or close within a short period after beginning operation. The goal of the “Market Need & Demand Study” is to make sure that when a school is approved that it will open and be sustainable. We believe that the “Market Need & Demand Study” requirement will be beneficial for school developers in putting together sound and realistic proposals for new chartered public schools, for authorizers in doing their due diligence evaluation of the proposal for the school, and MDE in their review and oversight of the authorizer’s due diligence.

The CMO/EMO Transparency & Accountability provisions were developed over a five-year period by the Association, authorizers, and MDE to ensure that issues, concerns, and abuses which have occurred in other states do not occur in Minnesota. The purpose of the CMO/EMO provisions is to ensure that there is transparency and accountability for public funds when a chartered public school contracts with a management organization. The goal is to ensure that everyone involved in the contracting between a chartered public-school and a CMO/EMO clearly understand their roles and responsibilities.

Again, the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools urges the enactment of the provisions in Article 4 of SF 1311.

Sincerely,

Eugene Piccolo  
Executive Director  
MN Association of Charter Schools