

Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair  
Education Finance  
January 31, 2023

Dear Chair Kunesh and Education Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the Twin Cities Business Architecture Forum (TCBAF), I am writing to express our support for expanding the BARR system to more Minnesota schools through Senator Putnam's bill SF 494.

TCBAF, founded in Minnesota in 2010 and the largest professional community of Business Architects in the world, has been working with BARR to guide and assure the advancement of what we believe is an essential leap forward for the success of our students and educators in Minnesota.

The TCBAF Community represents thousands of member Business Architects and partners worldwide, with several businesses located in the twin cities (Medtronic, Cargill, and Cigna, among others). For the past several years, through our *Architecting for Good* program, TCBAF has provided essential strategic planning and consulting services for MN non-profit organizations who may not otherwise have the opportunity to benefit from professional business architecture practitioners. We recently began providing pro bono strategic planning support to BARR Center, the nonprofit organization that founded and delivers the BARR System.

When we learned about the phenomenal impact the BARR System has on schools, we knew it was an organization we wanted TCBAF's team of experienced professionals to support. We are business architects, but we are also parents, grandparents, and Minnesotans, and from the extensive data and evidence available on the BARR system, we believe it has tremendous potential and should be expanded to more schools in Minnesota and across the nation.

We could see immediately that this unique and highly studied system has cracked the code and figured out what it takes to decrease failure rates, improve math and reading scores, and narrow the achievement gap for all students, including BIPOC students. And, on top of the academic outcomes, teachers' satisfaction and student experience improve in BARR schools. Our TCBAF Community is proud and excited to align with an organization like BARR Center, bringing word of its many achievements and incredibly high potential for Minnesota's education system to our homes, businesses, colleagues, and elected representatives. With outcomes like



these, especially in times like these, we are investing our time, energy and talent in BARR and encourage the Education Finance Committee to provide financial support through advancement of SF 494.

I am personally grateful to you, Chair Kunesh and members, for giving your time and consideration on behalf of this remarkable organization and mission. As a former state government employee and lifelong Minnesotan, I am deeply aware of the many truly deserving and critically important priorities you balance. The BARR Center and the BARR System are extraordinary in the field and deserving of the attention you'll assuredly give them for the benefit of Minnesotans. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

Linda Finley  
Founder and President  
Twin Cities Business Architecture Forum