



April 16, 2024

Senator John Marty
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
95 University Avenue West, Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Minnesota Ethnic Studies Coalition – which brings together nearly two dozen community, youth and education organizations – writes in strong support of the Omnibus Legacy Bill (SF 5116) and the funding it provides for Underrepresented Groups Cultural and Ethnic Studies Materials.

Unlike other content areas such as Math, Literacy and Science, Cultural and Ethnic Studies curriculum and materials cannot be purchased from a curriculum and textbook service provider. SF5116 would allocate \$1M in fiscal year 2025 from the arts and cultural heritage fund to support the development of high-quality academic cultural and ethnic studies materials for communities that do not have adequate materials or who are underrepresented. This appropriation will directly support the development of materials that are co-constructed from the shared knowledge of educators, community experts, students and families.

As Minnesota schools become increasingly diverse, the need for culturally responsive and reflective curriculum is only more relevant. Studies show that when students see their own experiences and backgrounds within their curriculum, they become more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging, and achieve better educational outcomes. SF5116 will invest in curricular resources to better meet the educational needs of all Minnesota students.

Thank you to Senator Hawj for recognizing this critical need and authoring the legislation to provide these valuable funds.

We encourage your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Ethnic Studies Coalition

Members of the Minnesota Ethnic Studies Coalition

Asian American
Organizing Project



CAAL



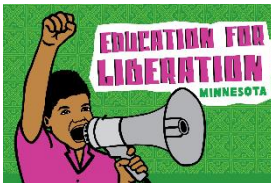
Climate Generation



Coalition to Increase
Teachers of Color and
American Indian
Teachers in MN



Education for
Liberation Minnesota



Education Evolving



Education Minnesota



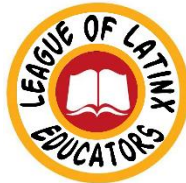
Ed Allies



ISAIAH



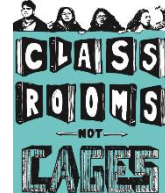
League of Latinx
Educators



Minneapolis
Federation of Teachers
59



Minnesota Educators
Against ICE



Minnesota Zej Zog (MN
Zej Zog / MZZ)



Saint Paul Promise
Neighborhood



Unidos MN



Voices for Racial
Justice



Youth 4 Ethnic Studies



YoUthROC

