

# ROCHESTER AREA

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## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 14, 2024

Senate Education Finance Committee  
95 University Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Chamber Support for Senate File 4035, Clarifying P-TECH Application Process and Funding**

Chair Kunesh and members of the Senate Education Finance Committee,

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce requests your support for House File 3722 and Senate File 4035. This legislation is a bipartisan effort that will support and encourage the expansion of P-TECH throughout Minnesota, positively impacting student success and preparing students for in-demand careers in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

The public-private partnership element of the P-TECH program is an outstanding resource for students that provides engagement with industry to best prepare students for the careers of today and tomorrow. This includes industry mentorships, internships, and hand-on training and experience for in-demand careers.

In addition to being a valuable program for students, P-TECH is also a critical resource in addressing the workforce challenges of Minnesota employers. For Minnesota to remain competitive within the nation we need to create opportunities for students to explore and excel in high-demand careers. P-TECH provides Minnesota a resource in developing talent to meet workforce needs while expanding a platform for students to connect with industry, prepare for their future careers, and lead Minnesota industry in the future.

In 2021 Rochester successfully launched its P-TECH program, creating a connection between students, education, and industry. It is now an important time for Minnesota to expand the successful P-TECH model statewide and give students throughout the state the opportunity to learn and experience a career in STEM.

House File 3722 and Senate File 4035 would expand the P-TECH program and provide students from across Minnesota the opportunity to earn tuition-free college credits, receive hands-on training through paid apprenticeships, and enable students to graduate from college earlier and with less debt.

We encourage your support of House File 3722 and Senate File 4035 to expand the P-TECH program throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Ryan Parsons, President  
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce