



Minnesota Senate Higher Education Committee
The Honorable Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 12, 2024

Chair Fateh,

We submit this letter to express faculty support for the SF4525, the Minnesota RISE Act. This bill will enhance the academic success and overall well-being of higher education students in Minnesota. MinnState faculty are dedicated to ensuring inclusive education and equal opportunities for all. We believe this bill is a significant step forward in creating a more equitable and supportive learning environment for students who often face undue challenges in pursuit of their educational goals.

The Minnesota RISE Act acknowledges the unique barriers that students with disabilities encounter and provides an expansion of acceptable documentation that a college student may provide to establish they have a disability in college and for consideration of accommodations. In addition, it requires institutions of higher education to adopt transparent and explicit policies regarding disability services, making the policies accessible and sharing the information to prospective, admitted, and enrolled students, families, and faculty. Our campuses already attempt to do this and some do it better than others. This bill will help create basic standards for campuses to use while developing their own policies and communication opportunities.

Students with disabilities are an integral part of our academic community, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they are not left behind. By implementing the provisions of the Minnesota RISE Act, we are taking a crucial step towards leveling the playing field and enabling these students to pursue their educational aspirations without the added burden of navigating a system that does not fully accommodate their needs.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of students with disabilities, ensuring they have the support and resources they need to excel and achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lindstrom
President, MN State College Faculty

Jenna Chernega
President, Inter Faculty Organization