



Dr. Susan Outlaw
Executive Director at Metro Deaf School
Testimony in support of SF2853
Senate Taxes Hearing
Vice Chair: Senator Matt D. Klein
Thursday, March 7, 2024, 8:30 am

Vice Chair Klein and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Susan Outlaw and I am writing in support of SF2853. I am the executive director of Metro Deaf School and we, like many others, struggle to find highly qualified teachers in Deaf education. Special education teacher positions are difficult to fill for all special education categories and not just Deaf education. More special education teachers are retiring or leaving the field and we are not preparing enough new teachers to fill these positions.

The extreme shortage in the state of Minnesota has to be addressed and helping support paraprofessionals and other non-licensed staff get their degree would be one way to help grow our own special education teachers. I appreciate your committee looking at solutions to help the children of Minnesota have the best education with highly skilled and knowledgeable staff.

Thank you to Senator Ann Rest and Rep. Ginny Klevorn for carrying this bill. I also thank this committee for your time and ask that you support SF2853 to open the door for more aspiring Deaf Education teachers.

Thank you,

Dr. Susan Outlaw

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