



Date: March 12, 2025

To: Senate Education Policy Committee

From: Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers

RE: Support of S.F. 1311

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA), a membership organization representing the majority of charter school authorizers overseeing 150+ charter schools across Minnesota. Our mission is to increase the quality of charter school authorizing by advancing practices and policies that ensure equitable and responsive educational programming and accountability systems.

MACSA is writing to express support for the following provisions of S.F. 1311. Authorizers have a history of collaborating within the charter sector to promote legislation that increases transparency and accountability for authorizers and charter schools. This effort is active and ongoing, including the over 50 new requirements passed in 2024 that address specific issues within the charter sector. The following provisions in S.F. 1311 advance these efforts accordingly:

- Increases accountability by requiring that authorizers seek training in alignment with areas of need identified during their regular evaluation by the Minnesota Department of Education
- Increases accountability by requiring that the Minnesota Department of Education provide annual training to authorizers
- Increases accountability by requiring that charter school board members that violate statute by serving on more than one charter school board are prohibited from serving on any charter school board for two years
- Increases transparency and accountability by requiring that charter schools establish a finance committee that reports to the school's board
- Increases accountability by allowing authorizers to require charter schools under financial corrective action to hire a financial expert
- Increases transparency for charter school closure hearings by requiring the proceedings be live-streamed for the public
- Increases accountability for affiliated building corporation boards by clarifying conflict of interest provisions for membership

Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA)

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- Increases accountability and transparency for charter schools and authorizers by requiring authorizers to post school contracts, regular performance evaluations, and any current corrective action notices on their website
- Increases accountability and transparency for authorizers by standardizing the content of annual public financial statements and requiring said statements be posted on their website

We appreciate the legislature's support of the charter sector's ongoing work to advance our continuous improvement. MACSA is available as a resource for any future discussions related to the above efforts and stands ready to engage on these critical issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Emily Edstrom Moore

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Emily Edstrom Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair, MACSA