

March 18, 2025

Senator Kunesh, Chair
Senate Education Finance Committee Members
75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members:

The **Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS)**, a membership organization of chartered public schools from across the state. MACS advocates for students in charter schools, supports charter school innovation, quality and accountability, and facilitates cooperation in Minnesota's charter school community to promote equitable opportunities and excellence in education for students.

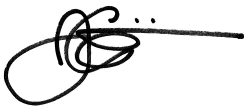
SF2239 would increase Local Optional Revenue levy funding from \$724 to \$974 per pupil. Local Optional Revenue levies are board-approved funding streams that do not need voter approval. Local Optional Revenue has become a consistent part of traditional public school districts' budgets. As many of the costs of educating students have increased, it only makes sense that proposed legislation would seek to offset these rising costs, to keep more funds in the classroom.

However, this approach only widens the inequities between traditional district schools and chartered public schools. Chartered public schools cannot levy and therefore, miss out on this substantial funding. Chartered public schools, like traditional districts are seeing rising costs, but are unable to access many funding streams available to traditional districts. This forces chartered public schools to make difficult decisions and ultimately take funding out of the classroom.

Any discussions about increasing Local Optional Revenue should include solutions that address chartered public school funding inequities stemming from being excluded from Local Optional Revenue.

We respectfully request you address this inequity by ensuring chartered public school students receive equal Local Optional Revenue funding with an equivalent state aid. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joey Cienian
Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS)

