

Dear Education Finance Committee,

My name is Haley Dagle and I am the American Indian Education Coordinator for St. Francis Area Schools. This is my fourth year in my position, and I feel fortunate each day that I get to be involved in this work. The most rewarding aspect of my job has been building relationships with our Native students and their families, and becoming someone they feel comfortable contacting with any issues they may have.

I am writing with concerns about Minnesota Statute 124D.81 Subd. 2b (2), the American Indian Education Aid Carry Forward criteria, which states “the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee for the school is aware of and has approved the carry forward **and has concurred with the district’s educational offerings extended to American Indian students under section 124D.78.**” This statute provision seems to contradict 124D.78 that says American Indian Parent Advisory Committees can issue a resolution of nonconcurrence if the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee finds that the needs of American Indian students are not being met by the district.

Our American Indian Education Program relies heavily on our American Indian Ed. state aid. It accounts for most of our funds, allowing us to have culturally appropriate programming such as ribbon skirt workshops, storytelling events with Elders, and hosting our powwow, as well as allowing for individualized tutoring opportunities. Being unable to carry forward funding unless concurrent directly impacts the educational experience of our American Indian students. It puts the Parent Advisory Committees that feel their district is not meeting the needs of their American Indian students in a position where they have to weigh their options of voting “nonconcurrent” and losing the opportunity to carry forward funding, or voting “concurrent” to have the ability to carry forward funding.

I am asking that Minnesota statute 124D.81 be amended to remove the phrase requiring the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee to **concur** with the district’s educational offerings extended to American Indian students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of American Indian students and programs around the state. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Haley Dagle

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