ANNARAE KLOPFER DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION



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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:

My name is AnnaRae Klopfer, and I am the Director of Special Education of PACT Charter Schools in Ramsey, MN.

As you consider SF2255, the Governor's proposed budget, I want to call your attention to the proposed deeply problematic cuts to chartered public school students. These cuts include reductions to both special education and long-term facility maintenance funding.

- PACT Charter School is a K-12, multi-site charter school serving 1,400 students, approximately 15% of whom—over 200 students—receive special education services. These proposed cuts would have a profound impact on our ability to support these students effectively.
- This year, we proudly celebrate our 30th anniversary as one of the oldest charter schools in the nation. The demand for our educational model, which emphasizes both academic excellence and character development, has continued to grow. In response, we have expanded our campus and more than doubled our enrollment over the past two years. Families choose PACT Charter Schools because they believe in our mission to provide a nurturing, small-school environment that meets their children's academic and social-emotional needs.

At PACT, reductions in special education funding and operating revenue for our students would mean reductions of over \$400,000, or the elimination of more than five teachers, who are critical to our programming and academic offerings for students.

As we are currently planning our budget for FY26, cuts to special education funding, when charters already receive less funding than traditional school districts, could be catastrophic to the services we provide our most vulnerable students.

As you put forth your Education Finance Omnibus bill, we respectfully urge you to protect this critical state funding for charter school students during this challenging time. Our students need your support now more than ever.

Sincerely,

AnnaRae Klopfer Director of Special Education PACT Charter School