



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

Re: Senate File 2255

March 30, 2025

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members:

My name is Dr. Joan Arbisi Little and I am an administrator at Career Pathways Public Charter school.

As you consider SF2255, the Governor's proposed budget, I want to call your attention to the proposed unfair cuts to chartered public school students. These cuts include reductions to special education funding.

Our students are grades 6 to 12, 87% live in poverty, 30% speak another language at home, and 25% are special education students. Students choose Career Pathways because they were not successful in a traditional setting. We provide a personalized program that includes hands on experiences with a flexible schedule to help them find their gifts and talents to finish school and be ready for college and careers.

In our school, reductions in special education funding and operating revenue for our students would mean fewer hands on learning experiences, a shortage of materials, less staff and larger class sizes, resulting in less learning.

As you advance your Education Finance Omnibus bill, I respectfully urge you to protect state funding for charter school students. With so many unknowns about the future of public education funding our students need your support now more than ever. All public school students, traditional district and public charter districts must be funded equitably.

Sincerely,

Joan Arbisi Little, Ed.D.
Director of Special Projects
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