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March 31, 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:

My name is Susan Vang and I am the Board of Directors Chair at Hmong College Prep Academy.

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 special education funding.

Hmong College Prep Academy is a K-12 school, where we have a significant amount of Special Education students. The Warrior Way for Warriors at HCPA is to embody a growth mindset that fosters the development of discovery and perseverance throughout their lives, demonstrating how to respect self, respect others, and respect their community. Our global perspective is to have our students (Warriors) to become aware of the global impact of their decisions, taking on new information with an open and engaged mind, instilling lifelong learning.

Our charter school serves a disproportionately higher percentage of at-risk students than the state average. The Governor's education finance proposal will make it even more difficult to provide the systems of support that these students need to be successful. Please do not balance the budget at the expense of at-risk students most in need of support. Our parents trust that their children will be most supported at a charter school, and the student funding should not be cut because they are in a charter school rather than a public school.

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,

Susan Vang

Board of Directors, Chair

Hmong College Prep Academy