

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of Ocean of Wisdom charter school, a newly approved school, that will be adversely impacted by the Governor's education finance proposal.

My name is Ngawang Dolker and I am one of the founding members of Ocean of Wisdom charter school. I am writing to urge you to protect funding for charter schools, as they provide critical educational opportunities that traditional schools may not offer. Ocean of Wisdom is more than just a school—it is a place where Social, Emotional, and Ethical (SEE) learning is woven into the curriculum, fostering the well-being of young learners in a way that is essential for their holistic development. It is a new school expected to open Fall 2025.

Additionally, Ocean of Wisdom is the only school in Minnesota that offers daily instruction in the Tibetan language as an elective. As a Tibetan who has lived in Minnesota since the age of nine, I never had access to an educational facility in the United States where I could learn my mother tongue on a daily basis. The Tibetan language is at risk of extinction due to the situation inside Tibet, making it even more vital to preserve and pass it on to future generations. Our school provides this unique opportunity, ensuring that young Tibetans and other interested students can connect with a rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

Cutting funding for charter schools would not only jeopardize the success of innovative educational programs like ours, but it would also limit opportunities for children who benefit from a diverse and inclusive curriculum. We need the resources to ensure that Ocean of Wisdom can operate to its fullest potential and continue to serve as a beacon of cultural preservation and emotional well-being for our students.

I respectfully ask you to continue supporting charter school funding so that institutions like Ocean of Wisdom can thrive and make a lasting impact on our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ngawang Dolker'.

Ngawang Dolker, Esq., Co-Chair
Founding Member
Ocean of Wisdom Charter School