



April 1, 2025

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Chair
3209 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jason Rarick, Republican Lead
3413 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesh and Senator Rarick,

Thank you for your service and leadership to the Senate Education Finance Committee. I am writing to oppose the proposed elimination of nonpublic pupil transportation services and aids to nonpublic students. The elimination of these services would have a devastating impact on students and families in our area.

St. Paul's Lutheran School educates 67 students in grades K-8 from Perham and surrounding areas. 54% of our students rely on transportation supported by nonpublic pupil transportation funding within our local district. Many of these families would be unable to send their children to St. Paul's Lutheran if there was no busing availability. This vital service to our families reaches as far out as 25 miles from our campus.

Schools located in rural areas have far more unique challenges than those in urban and suburban areas. Our farming communities rely on transportation because they never know from day to day what the needs on the farm will be. Farming life is unpredictable because of many factors like calving, planting, harvesting, etc.

In a rural area, it is far more efficient to transport all students together and not run multiple buses to pick up students on the same route later in the morning or afternoon.

I ask you to ensure fair and equitable treatment of students that attend St. Paul's and other nonpublic schools in Minnesota and oppose this troubling proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice Bicondoa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Candice Bicondoa
Principal

CC: Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee