



Harbor City International School

332 West Michigan Street Duluth, MN 55802

harborcityschool.org

March 28, 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 Aryn Bergsven and I am a Executive Director at Harbor City International School. **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.**

- *Students at Harbor City International School (HCIS) are in grades 9-12, soon to include grades 7-12*
- *over 40% of our students receive special services for a diagnosed disability.*
- *HCIS offers a safe, small, academically challenging setting for students of all abilities, interests, and strengths.*
- *Students are active in the community through service learning, community partnerships with the Library, YMCA, and more. Our students make a difference in Duluth!*

In my school, reductions in special education funding and operating revenue for our students would mean caseloads and class sizes would grow, limiting access to individualized services, reducing time with support staff, and relationships that are vital to student success would suffer. Our school operates on a shoestring budget. Cuts in state funding directly reduce programs and support just when student needs are rising. Funding cuts would reduce:

- *Paraprofessional supports*
- *Access to courses designed to help students navigate the world after high school*
- *Facilities adjustments to accommodate changing student learning needs*

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,

Aryn Bergsven

Executive Director
Harbor City International School



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