

Minnesota Senate Committee on Education Finance April 9, 2025 SF 2255 – A3 Amendment

Dear Chair Kunesh and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Business Partnership, which represents the leaders of Minnesota's largest employers and the nearly 500,000 Minnesotans they employ, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on to A3 Amendment to SF 2255.

The Minnesota Business Partnership is committed to building an education system that eliminates achievement gaps, advances equity, and ensures every Minnesotan has access to a world-class education. Unfortunately, Minnesota continues to have some of the most significant education disparities in the nation, particularly for low-income students and students of color. These disparities demand urgent action, and now more than ever our students and their educational needs deserve our undivided attention.

While we recognize the fiscal constraints facing the legislature this session, the proposed cuts to non-public pupil aid and charter schools are very concerning and unacceptable. Schools that serve students in our communities must be supported, not penalized. After a long bipartisan history of funding non-public pupil aid, it is disappointing to see Minnesota students bearing the brunt of budget cuts—especially after legislators spent the entire \$18 billion surplus last biennium. This is not responsible fiscal stewardship, and the students who attend these schools deserve better. We urge the Committee to reconsider these cuts and ensure all students receive the resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of families and students in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Abby Loesch

**Education and Workforce Policy Director** 

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