



February 27, 2025

To Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of Wallin Education Partners, I write in support of SF 1474, legislation that would require school districts and charter high schools to participate in the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Direct Admissions program.

As President and CEO of Wallin Education Partners, we are dedicated to increasing college success for students across Minnesota. We have seen firsthand the impact of the Direct Admissions program in opening doors to higher education. By ensuring that students know they are eligible for college, this initiative empowers them to take the next step in their academic journey with confidence.

Through our work, we have supported thousands of students in navigating the college process through graduation. We know that when students apply for the Wallin Scholarship it is a piece of the puzzle in deciding which school they will enroll at. With Direct Admissions, our applicants increased their ability to compare college cost and make the most of their Wallin Scholarship. Programs like this help remove barriers that often prevent students—especially first-generation and low-income students—from pursuing higher education.

SF 1474 would ensure that all Minnesota students have access to this life-changing opportunity. By expanding college access, this legislation not only helps students achieve their goals but also strengthens communities and contributes to a more robust workforce for our state.

Thank you for your dedication to Minnesota students and for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mohamed Sallam", is positioned above the printed name.

Mohamed Sallam

President & CEO
Wallin Education Partners