

April 8, 2025

Senator Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Fateh and Senate Higher Education Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association for Private Colleges Students (MAPCS), we would like to thank you for the ongoing work that you are doing to make our state a better place for Minnesotans. Though our state is experiencing a deficit, the committee continues to work wholeheartedly to ensure that Minnesota students' needs are met.

The Minnesota Association for Private Colleges Students is composed of student leaders from 18 private non-profit colleges that work together to address the needs of students. We are a group of students that reflect Minnesota. One of the priorities of MAPCS at the Capitol is to support students in accessing higher education through the Minnesota State Grant. One of the most significant issues affecting college students this year is the deficit in the State Grant Program, which has been crucial in giving over 70,000 students from low-to middle-income families an opportunity to pursue higher education.

MAPCS is very grateful for the committee's investment of \$105 million in the State Grant to minimize grant reductions for students this upcoming academic year and beyond. This will help students already enrolled in higher education and those making future higher education plans. Without this investment in the State Grant, students would have lost valuable financial support that has played a key role in applying to or staying in college.

MAPCS would like to thank you for continuing to support the Minnesota State Grant program. The program will continue to make education more affordable for many communities and invest in Minnesota's future workforce. Higher education plays a role in transforming different communities in our state and allows students to learn and build crucial skills for leading the next generation. Through your efforts and commitment, Minnesota continues to be a better place for many families and students.

Sincerely,

Victoire Mwakana, Student Government Official and MAPCS Legislative Affairs Chair, University of St. Thomas
Ben Bugbee, Student Body President and MAPCS Co-Chair, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
Elena Osmanllari, Student Body Vice President and MAPCS Co-Chair, Bethany Lutheran College
Daniel Fapohunda, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Augsburg University
Salma Caamir, Student Body Vice President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Augsburg University
Jamma Jiggo, MAPCS representative, Augsburg University
Devon Standingstrong, MAPCS representative, Augsburg University
Ashley Casper, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Bethany Lutheran College
Mild Du, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Bethel University
Vivian Agugo, Incoming Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Carleton College
Madelyn Ploof, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, The College of St. Scholastica
Grace Halvorson, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Concordia College

Denya Jada, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Concordia University, St. Paul
Chance Korpela, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Gustavus Adolphus College
Robby Swenson, Student Body Vice President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Gustavus Adolphus College
Eleanor Charlson, Student Government Official, MAPCS representative, Gustavus Adolphus College
Elisa Lopez, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Hamline University
Joel Sadofsky, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Macalester College
Mena Feleke, Student Body Vice President, MAPCS representative, Macalester College
Sarah Dyar, MAPCS representative, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Maggie Newhouse, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Caden Boyer, Student Body Vice President, MAPCS representative, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Madeline Bjonskaas, Senate Official, MAPCS representative, St. Catherine University
Ingrid Rustad, MAPCS representative, St. Olaf College
Lydia Svien, MAPCS representative, St. Olaf College
Aisling Cox, MAPCS representative, St. Olaf College
Jake Manske, Student Body President, Council of Student Government Presidents, University of St. Thomas