

April 8, 2025

Dear Chair Fateh and Committee Members:

On behalf of our 18 member institutions, I'm writing to share our perspectives on SF 2483, the Omnibus Higher Education Finance and Policy bill.

Thank you for making additional funding for the State Grant program a high priority in this difficult budget year. The investment of \$104.5 million in the State Grant program will make a tremendous difference for the 70,000 - 80,000 students at both public and private institutions who rely on State Grants to enroll in college and to complete their degree.

This level of funding will significantly reduce the State Grant reductions students are projected to face in the next two years. Our institutions are deeply grateful for your continuing commitment to making higher education success possible for the students who face the highest financial barriers to earning a degree or credential.

There are several other provisions of SF 2483 that we support:

- The additional funding of \$2 million for the Child Care Grants;
- The additional funding of \$8 million for the Fostering Independence Grants;
- The updates to the Hunger Free Campus program and the Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students program; and
- The fee restructuring and regulatory process changes that will simplify and improve the approval processes at the Office of Higher Education for new degrees, programs, and majors at accredited institutions.

We appreciate all the work of the Committee members and staff in assembling this bill under challenging budgetary conditions and we look forward to working with you and supporting these provisions as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.

With gratitude,



Paul Cerkenik, President
Minnesota Private College Council

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