



Dr. Susan Outlaw
Executive Director Metro Deaf School
Testimony in support of SF 249
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Senators Rest and Weber and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Susan Outlaw and I am writing in support of SF249. As the director of Metro Deaf School, we, like many other school districts across the state, struggle to find highly qualified teachers in Deaf education. Special education teacher positions are difficult to fill for all special education categories and not just Deaf education. More special education teachers are retiring or leaving the field and we are not preparing enough new teachers to fill these positions.

The extreme shortage of special education licensed professionals in the state of Minnesota has to be addressed and helping support paraprofessionals and other non-licensed staff get their degree would be one way to help grow our own special education teachers. I appreciate your committee looking at solutions to help the children of Minnesota have the best education with highly skilled and knowledgeable staff.

Thank you to the committee for your time and I ask that you support SF249 to open the door for more aspiring Deaf education teachers for Metro Deaf School and other special education teachers across the state.

Thank you,

Dr. Susan Outlaw