



May 5, 2020

Representative Cheryl Youakim  
591 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Youakim:

I am writing in support of HF163, and want to thank you for including Article 1, Section 5, which clarifies the authority of school districts to contract with private bus companies for student transportation services.

HF 163 Article 1, Section 5 was originally presented to the House Education Policy Committee on February 20 when the committee considered HF3179. During the hearing, the bill was passed out of the committee on a unanimous voice vote and placed on the general register.

Although this section contains a minor amendment to statutory language—as it only adds “3 or” to state statute— the proposed language is important to our industry and corrects an unintended consequence from the 2017 education omnibus bill. Prior to the 2017 omnibus bill, school districts were able to enter into contracts with transportation providers under either Minnesota Statute 2018 Section 123B.52 subdivision 1 or subdivision 3. In 2017, when the legislature expanded the authority of school districts to contract with food service vendors in 2017, it amended Minnesota Statute 2018 Section 123B.52 subdivision 1 in a way that unintentionally removed schools districts’ authority to enter into transportation contracts under subdivision 3. This section simply allows school districts and bus operators to once again enter into contracts under either subdivision 1 or subdivision 3, which was the practice prior to the 2017 education omnibus bill.

Thank you for including this provision in HF163.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett J. Regan', is positioned above the typed name.

Garrett Regan  
President, Minnesota School Bus Operator’s Association