



April 28, 2025

Chairs Kresha and Youakim,

Thank you for including funding for the Minnesota Youth Council in HF1388 on lines 28.4-28.7. We are appreciative of your ongoing commitment to the value of engaging youth voice in the policy development process. Minnesota stands out in its commitment to youth voice through the statutory status of the Council.

The Minnesota Alliance With Youth, as the stewards of the Council, take seriously our responsibility to provide a nonpartisan leadership development experience where young people from around the state can engage the different perspectives each brings, reach out to their communities, and bring that to their role in advising the legislature and Governor.

These young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow but are leading now. Your support for them and the Council will have a real positive impact on Minnesota.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Davnie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Davnie  
Executive Director



In Re: HF2433 – Appreciation for Q Comp funding

Dear Minnesota House Education Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your continued funding of Minnesota's Q Comp program. I know you had many difficult decisions to make when considering how to best fund our state's educational programming, but I want you to know that your decision to maintain Q Comp will be an impactful and beneficial one. This program has had a significant positive impact on our district as it has provided educators with meaningful, consistent professional development opportunities that have been shown to improve teacher performance and increase student academic outcomes. Specifically, our Q Comp coaching program and embedded PLC time, both dependent on this program's funding, have been invaluable to our teachers and their practice. In fact, in our district's 2024-2025 annual Q Comp staff survey, 98.63% of participants felt Q Comp improved their professional practice and 98.65% felt the program academically benefited their students. In addition, educators appreciate this program as it gives them autonomy and a voice in their professional development and evaluation process. As members of this committee, I know that you are aware it is vital that we listen to and support those who work most closely with our children—our educators. With this level of approval from even just one district's teachers, we know we are heading in the right direction for Minnesota's educators, their students, and our schools.

Thank you for your hard work on funding our schools in pragmatic and meaningful ways, and for making the Q Comp program a part of this biennium's budget.

Sincerely,

Kelly Larson  
Forest Lake Area Schools  
Educator and Q Comp Coordinator



April 27, 2025

House Education Finance Committee

Subject: Comments on SF 1388

Dear Chairs Kresha and Youakim,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network is a non-profit organization supporting families of children with disabilities in multicultural communities. We are appreciative of all the hard work and thought that has gone into creating the education finance bill, and grateful to all stakeholders for their commitment to our students. We are pleased to provide comments on HF 1388, and would like to focus our comments changes affecting students with disabilities:

- We are pleased to see an additional \$40 million for the Read Act teacher compensation.
- We are pleased to see \$3 million earmarked for special education apprenticeship programs.
- We are concerned about the \$15 million dollar cut for special education transportation reimbursement. This may mean the difference between an aid or no aid for students receiving special education services. This may mean the difference between a shortened day or not being able to offer a shortened day. We are concerned that any cuts to special education transportation will almost certainly result in additional costs elsewhere.
- We are concerned about the phase-out of unemployment for hourly workers.
- We are concerned that there is no additional funding for training on non-exclusionary discipline. There have been many discussions about discipline this session, and one thing that all parties agreed upon is that additional training on de-escalation, co-regulation, understanding student sensory needs, and trauma-informed practices would be immensely beneficial. We strongly believe that investments in these types of training will result in a decreased need for restrictive procedures and exclusionary discipline, which in turn improves school climate, retention rates, and safety for both students and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Multicultural Autism Action Network  
Fatima Molas  
Delia Samuel  
Rufo Jiru  
Maren Christenson Hofer



Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair  
Representative Ron Kresha, Chair  
Education Finance Committee  
April 28, 2025

Chairs Youakim, Kresha, and Education Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of professional organizations representing school support personnel, we are writing in support of the school support personnel language provisions included in HF1388. While we regret the overall decrease in resources, we appreciate Chair Youakim's engagement with our organizations to develop the eligibility expansion and are supportive of the proposed language.

Our membership organizations include the Minnesota School Social Work Association (MSSWA), the Minnesota School Psychologists Association (MSPA), the School Nurse Organization of Minnesota (SNOM), and the Minnesota School Counselor Association (MSCA). Collectively, our members work as a team to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of students in Minnesota.

HF1388 creates needed flexibility to the School Support Personnel funding while still maintaining the integrity of the original purpose: ensuring schools can staff the positions of school social workers, nurses, psychologists, counselors, and chemical health counselors so that we can address the increasingly complex student needs.

We are supportive the flexibility created in HF1388. Specifically:

- Expanding the usage to maintain staff in districts with declining enrollment.
- Allowing funding to be used for staff travel between schools.
- Paying for staff training or job coaching.
- Adjustments to funding for cooperative districts.

Our professional organizations appreciated the chance to engage with Education Minnesota and the MN School Board Association (MSBA). We believe HF1388 captures the financial flexibility sought by districts while still increasing capacity to address the needs of students so they can achieve their full academic potential in the classroom.

We recognize the difficult budgetary decisions among competing priorities within HF1388. Even with generous allocations, we note that many school districts indicated concern even before

proposed reductions in this bill. Because it requires matching dollars to fund even one FTE, small districts in particular indicated difficulty freeing up the necessary resources. We urge the committee to consider that allocating a smaller amount per district may result in more difficulty for districts to utilize the funding.

We appreciate your support of students throughout Minnesota. We are available for continued engagement as HF1388 moves forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessie Kember, President, Damion Smith, Past President, & Sarah Wollersheim Shervey,  
Legislative Chair

MN School Psychology Association

Julie Campanelli, LICSW, Ed.S, President & Christy McCoy, MSW, LICSW, Legislative Chair,

MN School Social Workers Association

Calli Moreau, Board Chair; Sydney Piras, Board Chair-Elect, Marguerite Ohrtman & Carolyn  
Berger, Advocacy Co-Chairs,

MN School Counselor Association

Tara Cliff, School Nurse Organization of Minnesota