



**MINNESOTA STATE**

30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

651-201-1800  
888-667-2848

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March 8, 2021

Representative Connie Bernardy, Chair  
House Higher Education Finance and Policy  
563 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Bernardy and members of the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HF 1802, a bill that establishes grant and waiver programs for students formerly in foster care.

This initiative reaches out to a traditionally underrepresented student population in higher education with the intent to remove barriers for participation in postsecondary education. The bill would provide much needed financial support for foster youth and increase their access to higher education.

In June 2019, we set a critical goal that by 2030, Minnesota State will eliminate the educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university. The core value for Minnesota State is to provide an opportunity for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities. This bill is a great step toward enhancing access and student success for the nearly 5,000 eligible fosters in the state of Minnesota.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of students. I appreciate the opportunity to lend support to HF 1802.

Sincerely yours,

Devinder Malhotra  
Chancellor

