

Date of Hearing & Bill Number: March 24, 2021 & HF 1530 (Lee)- Adult Basic Ed Bill
To: Members of the Education Finance Committee
From: See Moua-Leske
Affiliation (ex. student, parent, advocacy organization): Program Manager; Southwest Adult Basic Education
City of Residence: Marshall

*Please record your written testimony here and return this to sarah.burt@hosue.mn as an OCR compliant .pdf
(optical character recognition)*

Members of the Education Finance Committee,

Thank you for your support of Adult Education in Minnesota. I hope you will continue to support us so we can continue to provide services to adults who seek to improve their lives for their families and themselves.

My 18 county consortium is located in southwestern Minnesota, which consists mostly of rural areas with a few large towns sprinkled here and there. Because of this, it is challenging to balance providing sites within 30-45 minutes for adults who need services. I recently have had to close down one site and will probably have to reduce hours of my other remote locations as my program cannot afford to keep them open. Our clients and potential clients are having to drive further to receive services. Sometimes we cannot serve any of those potential clients due to transportation issues whether it's not having a vehicle, out of public transportation range, or not having a driver's license.

I have witnessed the successes when students let us know they have just accepted their first position as a paramedic and they started with us at barely reading at an 8th grade level or finally obtaining their GED after many years since leaving high school and they'll be able to pursue better opportunities. Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider providing funds to ABE. The clients we serve are the ones raising the future and their kids need great role models.

See Moua-Leske