



Representative Zach Stephenson, Chair
Representative Paul Torkelson, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
April 29, 2025

Chairs Stephenson, Torkelson, and Ways and Means 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 HF2434. 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.

HF2434 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 of the flexibility created in HF2434. 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 HF2434 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 HF2434. 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 HF2434 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