

100%

100% Campaign
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February 22, 2022

Chair Richardson, Rep. Jordan, Rep. Frazier, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for HF 550 (Jordan) and HF 3434 (Frazier).

As a campaign focused on advancing equitable climate policies, we know that big challenges need big solutions. However, we also recognize that big solutions need a big tent. We need Minnesotans across race and gender, across geography and income to understand that they belong in an equitable clean energy future. More importantly, we need all Minnesotans, Black, brown, and white, Indigenous and immigrant, to see that they belong in our state, that **we're all Minnesotans**.

For this, **we need to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive and accurate education in both history and science**. Since before we were a federal territory, our state has been home to Indigenous Minnesotans, new Americans, and those born in the United States. Likewise, the lived experiences of Minnesotans have varied based on our race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, wealth, and where we live. Some of our history has been marked by profound injustice. Other parts are deeply inspiring. Though it's a complex history, it's our shared history. It's a history that we can learn from together.

Likewise, **studying climate science is a way for us to prepare for our shared future**. Every Minnesotan is already being impacted by climate change, but we're all experiencing it differently. For some of us, the impact is more extreme weather. For others, it's health impacts. For some, it's changes to the land they work or visit or own. We can only take on these challenges squarely if we study them, understanding their causes and imagining their solutions.

House File 550 would provide support and guidance for schools to be able to educate their students about climate justice. This bill, created with students themselves, is a step in the right direction. It would set up an age-appropriate curriculum that centers science and contextualizes climate change impacts.

House File 3434 would create a one semester-long ethnic studies requirement for Minnesota high school students. To design the course requirement, the bill proposes the robust engagement of students, parents, educators, and community members via a new Ethnic Studies Task Force to be led by the Minnesota Department of Education. It also appropriates the funds the state and school districts can use to assess the need for, plan, implement, and evaluate the requirement in each district.

Taken together, **House File 550 and House File 3434 would better prepare Minnesota's students for the complex challenges we all face**.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Conry', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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