

March 12, 2023

Dear Madame Chair Youakim and members of the Education Finance Committee:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) is tasked to advise and inform on legislation and policy that impacts Latino Minnesotans statewide and serve as a liaison between government and Latino communities.

I write in support of HF 2131 (Rep. Hicks) to provide funding to the Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics, and Latin Americans (ACHLA), an organization that serves Latino Minnesotans in Rochester in critical areas of education. This funding will allow ACHLA's "Juntos" program to provide support to migrant/immigrant children that experience low levels of educational attainment and enrichment activities. This program has been helping students with English classes, math tutoring, health Initiatives, and connecting them to enrichment activities and programs. We believe that these kinds of programs are necessary to help close the opportunity gaps that still affect the educational outcomes of a still large proportion of Latino students.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Rosa Tock, Executive Director