

# **PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES**

Dear Chair Youakim and Committee Members,

It is with great excitement and pleasure that we write in support of provisions in DE1 amendment of HF2497 that mirror the language of HF345, which establishes a two-year pilot to improve educational outcomes for students attending the eight public charter high schools authorized by Pillsbury United Communities.

At Pillsbury United, we serve primarily Black, Brown and Indigenous people, people who are refugees and immigrants and people who are poor and working class. We serve young people during the school day as a public charter school authorizer of 18 schools and via district programming partnerships in Minneapolis.

In our work as an authorizer, it has become abundantly clear that the current education accountability system in Minnesota (World's Best Workforce) is not driving the needed changes for a better K-12 education system for our youth and society.

In 2021, Pillsbury United Communities along with local and national partners set out to redesign the accountability system for the 18 charter schools we authorize in Minnesota. Our goal has been to develop an accountability system that celebrates schools' innovative, student-centered, and community responsive practices, while also calling all of us to be better and do better. Our eight authorized high schools are in the implementation and data collection phase for reporting to be completed on the 2022-2023 school year.

## **Passing the language in DE1 Amendment that reflects HF345 will allow us to:**

- Continue the implementation of our pilot program to support the redesign performance frameworks for schools to improve educational outcomes, particularly for students of color.
- Engage students, families, and community leaders in redesigning performance frameworks in support of continuous improvement.
- Report to MDE and the Legislature each high school's executed contract goal attainment (academic and non-academic) during the pilot phase.

We would like to thank Chair Youakim for her leadership in including the important proposal in this omnibus bill and Representative Hussein for his boldness in championing this meaningful work. We ask for the full support of the committee to support the pilot proposal.

Sincerely,

Brenna Brelie, Interim President & CEO

Kenzie O'Keefe, Head of Mobilization & Narrative Strategies