



February 7, 2022

Letter of Support

Dear Chair Richardson and House Education Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of Pillsbury United Communities – Office of Public Charter Schools (PUC-OPCS), I write to express support for the short-call substitute teacher pilot provision within HF2950.

As a charter school authorizer with a portfolio of 18 public charter schools that serve over 9,000 students, our office has consistently heard from our schools leaders that staffing, particularly with staffing substitutes has been a significant challenge since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current substitute teaching requirements have put an incredible strain on our educators across the portfolio to meet the staffing needs throughout the ongoing pandemic. Moreover, allowing the reasonable extension for qualified applicants to become substitutes as prescribed in HF2950 will certainly help alleviate the serious issues facing our schools in regards to staffing.

Our school leaders and staff have been tasked with significant challenges over the course of the past two years and deserve to be able to focus on what matters most – the education every student.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this urgent matter impacting our students and schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha N. Diaz', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Samantha N. Diaz, Director

Pillsbury United Communities – Office of Public Charter Schools

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