MINNESOTA
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

February 24, 2021

RE: HF950

Dear Members of the House Education and Higher Education Committees,

Minnesota School Psychology Association (MSPA) is pleased to support the inclusion of Minnesota Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MnMTSS) in HF950. MSPA strongly believes in the MTSS framework as an evidence-based foundation for positive social, emotional, behavioral, developmental, and academic outcomes for every student.

The opportunity gap continues to widen, and the school-to-prison pipeline phenomena is becoming more prominent. Minnesota's students, families, and educators are operating in a failed system, which was created to excel those who represent dominant culture. Implementing isolated programs into an unjust system is not sufficient to sustain and amplify change in education. The state's response to this issue must be on the same scale as the intensity of the problem. MnMTSS provides school districts with a framework for structure, equity, and accountability to ensure students' needs are being met. To reach true equity within education requires a collaboration between the community members and those the legislation is intended to serve.

The school-systems attempting to apply MnMTSS will be provided access to layered tiers of culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based practices. The MnMTSS framework relies on the knowledge that every student can learn and thrive. It engages an anti-racist approach to examining policies and aims to ensure an equitable distribution of resources.

We urge the Committees to support HF950 and its inclusion of MnMTSS along with numerous additional policy updates that promote equity in Minnesota's schools. Thank you for considering this important issue. MSPA and the school psychologists of Minnesota are hoping that adding our voices will highlight the significance of this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meghan Hickey, President Minnesota School Psychologist Association

Dr. Sally A. Bass & Marilyn Leifgen, MSPA Legislative Chairs

cc: Brad Lundell
    Dan Knewitz