

PRODEO

A C A D E M Y

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Pryor and members of the House Education Policy Committee,

I'm writing today to ask you to preserve pathways to licensure for high-quality, diverse teachers. I am concerned that provisions in HF1224 would remove pathways to obtaining a Tier 2 teaching license. This would have a devastating impact on Prodeo's teacher workforce where 24 of our 74 teachers are in the classroom with a Tier 2 license. I urge you, as a House education committee member, not to advance this proposal.

The bill would also eliminate the pathway to permanent licensure for educators who have demonstrated success as Tier 2 teachers. In the past year—the first time it was possible—99 teachers were able to advance from Tier 2 to Tier 3 licensure based on experience, giving them and their students the certainty they need. A critical element of tiered licensure reform, sparked by an in-depth report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, was to allow teachers to advance based on evidence of experience and effectiveness. Eliminating this provision would disallow many of our school's educators from being able to stay in the classroom beyond 8 years – at a time when we are struggling to find teachers.

Minnesota's previous, broken teacher licensure system deterred and pushed out experienced, effective educators. As an administrator, I can attest that our new tiered licensure system has done away with arbitrary barriers, instead providing teachers and administrators clear pathways to hiring and retaining mission-aligned teachers. It respects school leaders and seasoned educators as professionals, and considers the variety of skills, experiences, and expertise that can make a teacher great. Most importantly, it values what matters most: a teacher's impact in the classroom.

At a time of severe teacher shortages, and with an ongoing need for diverse educators, I hope you will oppose this counterproductive proposal and allow Minnesota schools to recruit and retain the quality teachers our students deserve.

Thank you,



Rick Champion
Co-Founder

PERSEVERANCE RESPECT INTEGRITY DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT