



February 8, 2022

Letter of Support

Dear Chair Davnie and House Education Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of Pillsbury United Communities, we write to express strong support for HF1939, which indexes increased basic education revenue to English learner revenue and creates an English learner parent and community advisory council. Additionally, we are excited to support HF2944, which substantially increases funding for EL programming.

For over a decade, EL funding has been wholly insufficient in meeting the needs of our increasingly diverse populations across Minnesota. HF1939 is a critical first step to ensuring a structural shift in how we, as a state, invest in our EL students to ensure they are receiving the resources and services they deserve.

Moreover, the funding allocations prescribed in HF1939 ensure the Minnesota Department of Education builds its capacity to provide much needed support and accountability to districts that have large EL populations. We can no longer turn a blind eye to districts and charter schools who have lagged in providing high-quality education to our students of color, including our EL students.

Additionally, the creation of an EL parent and community advisory council is an important proposal to meaningfully engage these experts who have been historically marginalized from being included in their students' learning.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this long needed increased investment in our EL students, parents and community with HF1939 and HF2944.

Sincerely,

Adair Mosley | President & CEO | Pillsbury United Communities
Kenzie O'Keefe | Director of Policy | Pillsbury United Communities