



Dr. Susan L. Outlaw
Executive Director at Metro Deaf School
Testimony in support of HF2340
House Taxes Hearing
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Chair Gomez and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Susan Outlaw and I am writing in support of HF2340. I am the executive director of Metro Deaf School and we, like many others, struggle to find highly qualified teachers in Deaf education. Special education teacher positions are difficult to fill for all special education categories and not just Deaf education. More special education teachers are retiring or leaving the field and we are not preparing enough new teachers to fill these positions.

The extreme shortage in the state of Minnesota has to be addressed and helping support paraprofessionals and other non-licensed staff get their degree would be one way to help grow our own special education teachers. I appreciate your committee looking at solutions to help the children of Minnesota have the best education with highly skilled and knowledgeable staff.

Thank you to Rep. Klevorn for carrying this bill. I also thank this committee for your time and ask that you support HF2340 to open the door for more aspiring Deaf Education teachers.

Thank you,

Dr. Susan L. Outlaw

1125 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108

www.mdsmn.org

Videophone: 651-964-1630
Voice: 651-224-3995