

February 6, 2023

Members of House Education Policy Committee
State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of House Education Policy Committee:

On behalf of education organizations across Minnesota, we wish to weigh-in on HF 1257. We sincerely appreciate the positive direction this bill takes in opening pathways and providing flexibility to teacher licensure, which helps school districts address the shortage of teachers and substitute teachers. These pathways are helping teachers of color, teachers in specialized fields and teachers who face barriers to traditional pathways to licensure.

In respect to HF 1224, we are opposed to removing pathways to licensure at a time when our districts are facing significant teacher and substitute shortages. According to PELSBS's recent Teacher Supply and Demand the vast majority of school districts report difficulty in hiring both teachers and substitutes. "Districts are reporting impacts from the teacher shortage. A majority of districts reported being "somewhat significantly" or "very significantly" impacted by the teacher shortage (84%) and substitute teacher shortage (89%)."

Our organizations would like to continue to work with the authors of the bills so pathways remain open, and barriers can be eliminated to increase the number of teachers and substitutes.

Respectfully,

Minnesota School Boards Association
Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Association of Metropolitan School Districts
Minnesota Rural Education Association
Schools for Equity in Education
Minnesota Administrators for Special Education
Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

