

Chair Youakim and members of the Education Policy Committee,

I am unable to come to the hearing today, but would like to submit this to the record as support for HF3800.

I am a Tier 1 teacher and teach Culinary Arts at Harrison Education Center in Minneapolis. I believe it is a fundamental human right that people can join a union. Each person has a right to join in any group they want to. If they want to join a union because they want to be protected from unfair layoff practices or bullying, they should be able to do that. If people want to join a union to get training, they should be able to do that. If they want to collectively fight for better wages and benefits, they should be able to do that too.

Even those here testifying before you who do not believe in unions and believe that people have the freedom **from** joining a union, must then also agree that I should have the freedom **to** join a union.

The current law prevents me from joining a union and that is wrong.

I want to join a union because it is me who should decide if I should join a union, not statute.

I want to join the union because I believe that my voice, added with others, can raise wages and benefits for teachers and advocate for our students.

I want to join a union because as a Tier 1 teacher I want to access the training the union can provide around pedagogy and trauma and child development.

As a black man, I know of unfair labor practices and unfair pay and benefits. I know that by being in a union, someone can protect me from those things. For those who believe that by allowing more Tier 1 licenses will bring more teachers of color into the profession, why would you take away my right to join a union?

It is my hope that you pass this legislation and allow all Tier 1 teachers to join the union if they choose, just as all teachers have a right to in Minnesota.

Sincerely

Derrin Turnage

Harrison Education Center