

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Kristi Pursell
523 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Pursell,

Sourcewell strongly supports House File 2042 which codifies the Career and Technical Education Consortium Grant program (CTE). This is a voluntary collaboration of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives and other regional public and private partners to provide career and technical education opportunities for Minnesota students.

Sourcewell began as ECSU 5 in the mid-1970s when the Minnesota legislature wrote into law the creation of service cooperatives across the state. Our original purpose was to help k-12 schools succeed in our 5-county region. In the mid 1990's, the state expanded that scope to include support for local government and non-profits. As a service cooperative, Sourcewell now provides programs and services to education and government to assist them in meeting specific needs which are more efficiently delivered cooperatively than by the entity themselves. Sourcewell represents 24 school districts across Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties in central Minnesota.

This grant program will directly impact the work of Sourcewell's Education Solutions team as we partner with higher education institutions to provide career and college readiness for students in our region. This bill not only benefits students in Sourcewell's region, but all students throughout each Minnesota Service Cooperative. The CTE grant will develop new career pathways for students and develop new technical programs that focus on the industry sectors that fuel the economies of each individual Minnesota Service Cooperative. This program will equip each student with the technical skills required by regional employers within each Minnesota Service Cooperative. Overall, this bill will improve access to career and technical education programs for students and advance Minnesota's future work force by ensuring students are equipped with the necessary skills these employers require.

As partners in education, Sourcewell fully supports House File 2042 which represents a critical investment in Minnesota's future economic vitality and regional prosperity. This bill will improve the accessibility to career and technical education programs for students along with an aim to address the growth and advancement of Minnesota's future workforce.

Sincerely,

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