

TO: Members
House Education Policy Committee

FROM: Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education

RE: Support for HF 4

Schools for Equity in Education wants to thank Representative Hassan for introducing HF 4 and is happy to voice its strong support for Article 1, Section 1 of the bill. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused massive disruptions throughout society, and the education sector has not been spared from this upheaval.

The unpredictability caused by the pandemic showed up noticeably for school districts with smaller than expected enrollments. There was no way that school districts could have prepared for this development. The fall-off in student enrollment and the accompanying reduction in revenue have put a considerable dent in school district budgets. While revenue delivered through the various Federal relief initiatives has been helpful, funding gaps still exist and are being experienced by school districts throughout the state.

Schools for Equity in Education's 2021 legislative platform calls for the legislature to "expend every effort to make sure that school funding is stable and policies are flexible as school districts adjust to the pandemic's challenges." Article 1, Section 1, of HF 4 largely addresses the problems emanating from the pandemic's revenue fluctuations. Schools for Equity in Education appreciates Representative Hassan's commitment to students throughout Minnesota as witnessed in the many provisions of this bill and the organization looks forward to working with Representative Hassan as HF 4 continues through the legislative process.

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