



Friday, February 4 2022

TO: House Education Policy Committee Members

RE: **HF 2950**

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) supports HF 2950. We believe that the provisions in this bill address some of the significant challenges public education is facing because of the two-year Covid-19 Pandemic.

When the Pandemic began two years ago, schools and educators had to scramble to figure out how to best provide for the education of students. When the Pandemic hit the thinking was that it would be a short-term situation. Schools are now in the midst of a third school year of trying to figure out how to deal with the Pandemic and its impacts.

We believe the **Crisis online learning provision** provides the framework for public schools (traditional districts and charters) to plan how they will provide for the education of students in a rational way when there is a future natural disaster, pandemic, or other catastrophic event.

We believe the **Crisis E-Learning provision** for 2021-2022 will assist schools that did not have E-learning days in their calendar this school year meet the requirements for days and hours by recognizing the days the school provided education via electronic means that would not have otherwise counted.

We believe the **Short-Call Substitute Teacher Pilot, Educator Lapsed License Incentive, and Conditional Tier 3 Licensure** will assist schools in meeting the personnel shortages that public schools are facing and will continue to face in the next couple of years as a result of the Pandemic and the stress it causes on educators.

We would recommend that the **Short-Term Teacher Pilot expiration date** be amended to June 15, 2023 instead of February 15, 2023. It seems to make little sense from a personnel point of view to have this pilot end in February which is about 2/3rds of the way during the school year. Even if the Pandemic is over next year, February is the middle of the influenza season which in normal times creates staffing shortages.

We urge the Committee to pass **HF 2950** and move it forward to the floor for quick action. Schools need these tools now to address the realities they are facing every day.

Sincerely,

Eugene Piccolo
Executive Director