



Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research

March 13th, 2023

Dear Madame Chair Youakim and members of the Education Finance Committee:

I write on behalf of Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER), in support of HF 2131 (Rep. Hicks, Liebling, and Smith) to provide funding to the Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics, and Latin Americans (ACHLA), an organization that serves Latino Minnesotans in Rochester and surrounding communities in important topics like education, health, civic engagement, economic/workforce development, and community-wide partnerships and collaborations. This funding will allow ACHLA's "Juntos" program to provide support to not only migrant/immigrant children and youth that experience low levels of educational attainment but also families by providing them with enrichment activities. The Juntos program has been helping students with English classes, math tutoring, health Initiatives, and connecting them to enrichment activities and programs for the past 19 years. After the COVID19 pandemic, we have seen how our Latino students have fallen back in their graduation rates and educational MCA scores. This program will help students continue their educational journey in a culturally specific manner by being with other Latino students and families.

Please support this important program and allow this bill to have a hearing in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me. Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodolfo Gutierrez', is positioned above the typed name.

Rodolfo Gutierrez  
Executive Director  
HACER  
[rodolfo@hacer-mn.org](mailto:rodolfo@hacer-mn.org)  
651.401.0011