

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE



Representative Gene Pelowski
Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee
491 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 14, 2023

Dear Representative Pelowski and members of the House Committee on Higher Education Finance and Policy,

I am writing today on behalf of the Bethany Lutheran College Student Senate, and our many students who receive a Minnesota State Grant, to encourage your support for the passage of HF1912 – a bill to lower the share of college costs the State Grant formula expects students to cover from 50 to 42 percent.

By prioritizing college affordability and workforce development through an investment in the State Grant Program, you are helping Minnesota college students to persist through graduation and become contributing leaders and taxpayers for the State of Minnesota.

Passage of this bill will help students significantly as the average State Grant award would increase by approximately \$1,100. Roughly 61,000 Minnesota college students will be impacted by this legislation. At Bethany Lutheran College specifically, there were 234 State Grant recipients last year—that's 26 percent of all students. The average award was just over \$5,600.

On behalf of Bethany Lutheran College students and our Student Senate, we thank you for your investment and we look forward to continuing conversations with you about supporting this legislation to increase State Grant funding for our students. This is a sound investment for the future of these students and the State of Minnesota.

Andre Silva
President
Bethany Lutheran College Student Senate