



March 16, 2022

Chair Richardson

443 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: ELL Funding and Policy Improvements in HF 3580

Dear Chair Richardson and members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for HF 3580, which would provide additional resources and supports for educating the more than 77,000 Minnesota students who are learning English in our K-12 schools.

In particular, we support:

- Indexing the EL Funding Formula to the General Education Budget (Lines 2.10-2.12): The EL funding formula has not seen a meaningful increase in two decades. That has led to a growing and untenable cross subsidy of more than \$100 million annually. By tying the EL formula to the general education formula, Minnesota would join a growing number of states making their education finance structures more equitable by creating weighted student funding.
- Creating First-of-Its-Kind Funding for SLIFE Learners (Lines 2.24-2.30): Students who have limited or interrupted formal education experience have unique stories and needs and deserve dedicated funding to help them take advantage of a stable learning environment that through no fault of their own may have never experienced before.
- Microcredentials for Educators (Lines 3.4-3.14): Students deserved educators who are well trained to meet them where they are at in their language development. EL students are general education students who spend large portions of their school days in classrooms with educators who may or may not have gotten the training opportunities to ensure that they can provide effective content instruction. Giving educators the chance to add a specific credential through additional targeted training can be a catalyst for more EL students to have access to best practices.

These policy changes would help more students—particularly students of color and low-income students—access the language support and development they need and deserve. We applaud Rep. Mariani's long standing leadership on this issue and urge the committee's support.

Sincerely,

Matt Shaver

Policy Director