



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

Unleashing education from convention

Friday, March 5, 2021

TO: Chair Ruth Richardson and House Education Policy Committee Members

RE: HF 874 - PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON EDUCATION

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools believes that the proposed amendment is serving as a catalyst for an important discussion of how the State of Minnesota should address the gap in public education opportunities, student achievement and performance, especially for students of color and those experiencing poverty.

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools supports the idea of enshrining in the Minnesota Constitution a constitutional right to a quality public education that provides every student the opportunities to achieve their potential.

While we support enshrining a constitutional right to a quality public education, we have reservations regarding the proposed wording of the amendment.

- **First**, we have concern that the term “*uniform standards*” in the proposed amendment raises concern given the debate over this term for the last couple of decades.
- **Second**, we have a concern that the term “*paramount duty*” in the proposed amendment does not address the financial obligation of the state.
- **Third**, we have concern that the *amendment does not address who has the legal responsibility and liability* for any remedy a court might determine in the case of a violation of the constitutional right.

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools believes that these concerns need to be fully vetted during the constitutional amendment process in the Legislature. Our hope is that the legislative intent of the amendment’s language is made clear on the record, so there is broad understanding of the meaning of the constitutional right and the responsibility of the state when the amendment goes to the voters.

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools looks forward to being actively engaged in the debate on how the proposed amendment could assist Minnesota to ensure an equitable and quality education for every Minnesota student.

Eugene Piccolo
Executive Director