

To: Senator Roger Chamberlain, Senator Zach Duckworth, Representative Heather Edelson, and Representative Sandra Feist

From: Jeff Lancial, Director, State Account Relations, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (Connections Academy)

Re: Proposed bills SF1441 / HF1644

Date: 3/16/2021

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in regard to language for a Distance Learning Option contained in the proposed bill SF1441 (lines 3.19 to 3.29) or HF1644 (lines 3.19 to 3.29).

Please reconsider the ease for which these bills afford districts to create Online Learning Programs. Being a provider for Online Schools for nearly 20 years, we believe that students in Online Schools deserve a high quality curriculum, learning management system, and learning experience. And, it is concerning that these proposed bills allow online programs to be created without the same scrutiny and oversight that previous programs have received. We fully understand the challenges that the pandemic created for school districts in Minnesota including the potential learning loss of students. Quality online programs like Connections Academy utilize our experience and expertise to keep students on a positive learning trajectory. This bill undermines the robust, quality online programs and hurts students who participate in programs that are created with no oversight.

If you would like to learn more about Connections Academy, don't hesitate to contact me at 319-430-9981.

Respectfully,

Jeff Lancial

Director, State Account Relations

319-430-9981

jeffrey.lancial@pearson.com

Pearson Online & Blended Learning

Connections Academy is supported by Pearson Online & Blended Learning

Learn more at ConnectionsAcademy.com and pearson.com