



March 5, 2021

The Honorable Ruth Richardson
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
403 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
531 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Richardson, Vice-Chair Hassan, and Members of the House Education Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Business Partnership represents the CEOs and senior leaders of Minnesota's largest companies, and since our founding we have championed strategies to create an education system that advances education equity, sets high expectations, closes opportunity and achievement gaps, and ensures all Minnesotans receive a rigorous, world-class education.

Minnesota students deserve great schools and quality education. Historically, Minnesota's K-12 public education system has been recognized as one of the top-performing systems in the nation, with students generally performing well compared to peers in other states. However, our results mask wide disparities in our own state - Minnesota has some of the largest education gaps by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status in the nation.

As Justice Alan Page has said, "**Education justice is at the heart of racial justice.**" Minnesota needs to work with urgency to eliminate education gaps. An urgency heightened by the need for bold action to address racial disparities and remove systemic barriers in education that are a root cause of racial inequity.

One of the most impactful strategies to advance education equity is by amending Minnesota's constitutional standard for education to affirm that all children have a civil right to quality education. We must set the bar high; we must focus our efforts on students over systems; and we must hold systems accountable for outcomes.

Minnesota's business leaders recognize that closing the state's K-12 education gaps is an economic and moral imperative. That is why we are supporting the proposed amendment – it calls the question and will compel Minnesota to enact meaningful, student-centered reforms.

We urge legislators to support the proposed amendment because raising the constitutional standard will usher in systemic changes that will finally ensure all Minnesota students receive the kind of world-class education that allows them to fully participate in an increasingly diverse and global economy. Our children deserve no less.

Thank you for your continued leadership for Minnesota children.

Sincerely,



Charlie Weaver
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Representative Sondra Erickson
The Honorable Representative Ron Kresha
House Education Committee Members