



March 13, 2023

Senator Mary Kunesh  
Chair, Senate Education Finance Committee  
Room 3209 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Cheryl Youakim  
Chair, House Education Finance Committee  
Room 443 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesh and Chair Youakim:

The Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Board and members are in full support of Governor Tim Walz's education funding budget proposal that provides funding for the transportation of foster care children included in the special education funding. The language that accomplishes this goal—long sought by school district transportation professionals—is found in Article 4, Section 3, of SF 2684/HF 2497 (p. 67, lines 21-22).

This inclusion is in alignment with provisions for other students in transition, including students experiencing homelessness and students in shelter care facilities. Current statutes require counties and LEAs to have a cost sharing agreement in place before LEA title funding applications can be submitted. This funding would eliminate those agreements, thus releasing title funding applications from potential impediments. This will provide consistencies in transportation for all Minnesota school districts and eliminate the need for counties to fund student transportation.

This change in funding is in the best interest of school districts, counties, and foster care facilities and will ultimately assist in the necessary care for the students of Minnesota that need assistance.

Sincerely,

John Thomas, President  
Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT)