

June 2, 2022

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Jeremy Miller
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Melissa Hortman
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Gov. Walz, Majority Leader Miller, and Speaker Hortman,

We are writing today as a coalition with diverse interests, but one common goal: making sure every young Minnesotan receives the support they need to thrive. Every day we hear stories from all corners of the state about deep unmet needs. If we are serious about putting kids first, the work cannot wait while adults sort out politics. We urge you to reconvene and finalize bills that invest in critical student needs.

We are deeply grateful for your work to build consensus around global spending targets, setting fair parameters that balance multiple priorities. But now, communities are looking to the Capitol, wondering why billions of dollars would sit idle when they can and should be invested back in the support students, schools, and communities deserve. While session may have ended, the needs of students and the urgency to address academics, mental health, and basic needs have not. All sides must come to the table with a bias towards action and a willingness to collaborate.

The bottom line is this: we cannot allow young people's needs to deepen while adults focus on elections. Constituents need you to come back to the negotiating table and cut a deal.

The investments left on the table could address the urgent special education cross subsidy, preventing further program cuts in all corners of the state. It could ensure more students have educators trained in early literacy best practices, setting them up for long-term academic success. It could provide ongoing access to school meals, mental health supports, high-quality early learning, supplemental education opportunities, and more. Moreover, there are straightforward policy proposals with bipartisan support and the potential to drive meaningful change in areas from teacher talent to school climate.

Kids cannot afford a year of inaction. Students cannot afford another year of being forced to sit out of recess, in schools grappling with staff cuts due to the cross-subsidy, or with our youngest students missing learning time due to discriminatory discipline practices. Moreover, families would lose out on

important provisions in the tax, HHS, higher education, and jobs bills that provide everything from tax credits for families to scholarships for teachers.

We call on you to find a path forward and make good on the global budget agreement. Please come back in a special session to complete critical work on behalf of Minnesota students.

Sincerely,

Advancing Equity Coalition

Children's Defense Fund

Close Gaps by 5

Coalition of Asian American Leaders

Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color

EdAllies

Education Evolving

Educators for Excellence

Great Minnesota Schools

Hunger Solutions Minnesota

Minnesota Education Equity Partnership

Multicultural Autism Action Network

National Parents Union Minnesota

People for PSEO

Think Small

Voices for Racial Justice

Youthprise



cc: Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
Chris Schmitter, Chief of Staff
Leah Montgomery, Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy & Legislative Affairs
Rachel Bakke, Legislative Assistant
Benjamin Brinks, Legislative Assistant