



## **Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

February 1, 2021

To: Members of the Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee

From: Scott Croonquist, Executive Director

Re: SF 147 and SF 190

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, (AMSD) I am writing to express support for SF 147 and SF 190. I would also like to express my appreciation to Sen. Clausen for sponsoring these bills. The AMSD legislative platform advocates for reducing mandates and supporting local control and these bills support those goals.

SF 147 would remove the requirement that school districts annually report information for all probationary teachers in the district who were not renewed including the teacher's licensure area and the teacher preparation program that prepared the teacher. I believe this requirement was originally intended to be an accountability measure for teacher preparation programs. However, the reason probationary teachers are not renewed is most often related to budgetary reasons, and not performance. In addition, it is my understanding that this information is not being used in any meaningful way. Repealing this reporting requirement would remove a significant and time-consuming burden for our school district staff.

SF 190, as amended, would allow any school district, and not just the districts in the cities of the first class, to establish an area learning center without cooperating with other school districts. AMSD believes locally elected school boards are in the best position to determine if it makes sense to establish their own area learning center, or if it would be more prudent to cooperate with other school districts. Local school boards, working with their administrators, staff and community, understand the needs and challenges facing their students and strive to offer the programs and supports their students need.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions.