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Gregory Marcus
Minnesota Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Members of the Senate:

On behalf of Saint Paul Public Schools, I am providing a letter of support for bill SF1554, specifically the Academic Acceleration Policy addition that encourages automatic enrollments in advanced math courses.

In order to create school systems that cultivate proportional achievement we must change the mindsets, cultures and structures that produce disproportionate results for students of color and other underrepresented students in advanced coursework. *Mindsets*: we must establish a belief that all students will have access to and achieve in rigorous coursework. *Cultures*: a school culture that EXPECTS all students to challenge themselves throughout their PreK-12 experience is paramount. *Structures*: creating a school structure that eliminates implicit bias and other barriers to proportional access and success in advanced coursework is essential.

One structure that would work toward proportional access in advanced math coursework is automatic enrollment based on numerous objective qualifiers. Instead of putting the onus on the student and family to opt-in, automatic enrollment would put the responsibility of proportional access into advanced coursework on schools and school districts. Students and families could still elect to opt-out of advanced coursework if they decided to do so. However, when our students and families internalize that their schools believe in them, I doubt many students would choose to opt-out.

If our state and schools want to see significant changes in access and success in advanced coursework, we need to make significant changes to our mindsets, cultures and structures. Bill SF1554 is a great start.

Sincerely,

Darren Ginther