



February 1, 2021

Chair Chamberlain
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55103

Re: SF 147 Teacher reporting modifications

Dear Chair Chamberlain and members of the committee,

Today, we are writing to express concerns with SF 147. Transparent data collection and reporting is a critical component to better understanding the impact that policies, like staff reductions, have on the teacher workforce.

Gathering data on where teachers received their preparation, their licensure areas, and whether they were retained provides critical information for preparation programs about how their alumni are doing, as well as informing other stakeholders—including policymakers—about teacher layoffs. In addition to providing useful information to policymakers, this data is valuable for future teachers seeking to understand fields with high turnover for early career educators.

Good data to help understand and increase teacher retention is critical, particularly as the state works to increase teachers of color. Minnesota has invested over \$60 million over the last two decades to recruit teachers of color through state-funded programs like Grow Your Own and the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Grant. Despite these investments, the percentage of teachers of color has remained stagnant. We need to take a closer look at what the data is telling us about patterns and trends in the first years of teaching

We encourage the committee to support current statute, which provides invaluable information to help understand what is happening to early career teachers. This kind of reporting can help identify best practices and areas for growth within teacher prep, offering a flashlight to improve practice for the benefit of Minnesota students. If needed, we encourage the legislature to provide PELSB, districts, and teacher preparation providers the supports and tools needed to improve data collection and reporting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Shaver".

Matt Shaver
Policy Director