

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.R. No. 90

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
05/16/2026		Introduction Referred to Rules and Administration

A Senate resolution

recognizing the growth and success of Cypher Side Dance School.

WHEREAS, in 2017, Lue Thao founded Cypher Side Dance School with the support of Mary Anne and Sergio Quiroz inside the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center. Cypher Side started with just 20 students, and one of its earliest highlights was when student Amelia Khang became the first Hmong youth to join the Minnesota Timberwolves' performance team, the Pups; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Lue Thao performed in the Super Bowl LII Halftime Show. In 2019, Cypher Side students were invited to perform for Governor Walz's inauguration, and student Harmony Lee became the second Hmong youth to join the Timberwolves' Pups team; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Cypher Side opened its first studio in Gem Lake and performed at Olympic champion Sunisa Lee's victory parade celebrating her historic gold-medal win. By 2022, it had grown to 75 students and 13 weekly classes. After an electrical fire, community support raised over \$10,000 in a day and classes continued in local churches and recreation centers; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Cypher Side relocated to North St. Paul, expanding from one to three studios. That year, youth dancer Atari Ernst joined the First Avenue Breakers, the same team as Lue Thao of the Minnesota Timberwolves. In 2025, longtime student Sachi Patel, who has been with the studio since its founding in 2017, became the second youth member to join, furthering Cypher Side's mission to empower young dancers; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Cypher Side added a fourth studio, received \$275,000 in legislative funding, and Lue Thao became Macalester College's first visiting street-dance instructor. That same year, Cypher Side performed at the Minnesota Timberwolves' AAPI Night halftime show; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Lue Thao received the Hmong Chamber of Commerce's Business Impact Award and, on April 18, he was honored with the Hmong National Development's Community Catalyst Award. 2025 also marked his tenth season performing with the Minnesota

Timberwolves. On October 25, 2025, Cypher Side will host the first-ever Hmong event at the Mall of America, a historic milestone for the community; and

WHEREAS, Cypher Side Dance School has grown to more than 300 students and more than 40 weekly classes, continuing its mission to inspire, empower, and uplift youth through dance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it congratulates Lue Thao and Cypher Side Dance School and wishes them continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Cypher Side Dance School.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Erin P. Murphy
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Foung Hawj
State Senator, District 67

Susan Pha
State Senator, District 38

Tou Xiong
State Senator, District 44