Dear Speaker Kelliher and Majority Leader Pogemiller:

We are writing to strongly urge you to pass the alternative teacher certification legislation before the Minnesota State Legislature.

This legislation would widen the pipeline for additional talented individuals to teach in Minnesota’s most troubled schools. It also would provide for the long-term sustainability of proven programs such as Teach For America which provide effective teachers to our students with the greatest needs.

Moreover, we must pass alternative certification during this legislative session for Minnesota to stand any chance of winning millions of dollars desperately needed by financially strapped school districts across the state through a second-round Race to the Top grant.

This legislation is a common-sense approach to improving outcomes for underserved students through a deeper and more diverse pool of effective educators. A host of bi-partisan local stakeholders support alternative teacher certification, including educational organizations, community groups, business leaders, minority community leaders and many others.

We ask you to act quickly to pass the alternative teacher certification legislation. Minnesota cannot afford to waste another moment at the expense of our state’s struggling students. We must ensure all Minnesota students reach their full academic potential by widening the pipeline of effective teachers in this state.

Sincerely,

Addison Piper  
Long Lake, MN 55356  

Dean Phillips, President and CEO  
Phillips Distilling Company

Sean Kershaw  
Executive Director, Citizens League

Mary Brainerd  
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Ellen Goldberg Luger  
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