

Speaker of the House
Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senate Majority Leader
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller
Capitol Building, Room 235
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 13, 2010

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.

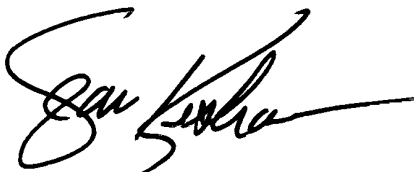
This legislation is a common-sense approach to improving outcomes for underserved students through a deeper and more diverse pool of effective educators. A host of bi-partisan local stakeholders support alternative teacher certification, including educational organizations, community groups, business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

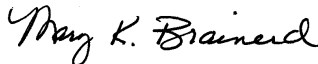
Sincerely,

Addison Piper
Long Lake, MN 55356


Dean Phillips, President and CEO
Phillips Distilling Company



Sean Kershaw
Executive Director, Citizens League



Mary Brainerd
CEO, HealthPartners
Itasca Project Chair

Ellen Goldberg Luger

Ellen Goldberg Luger
Executive Director
General Mills Foundation

Sondra Samuels

President, Peace Foundation

Wayne Jennings

Wayne Jennings

Sandra L. Vargas
President & CEO
The Minneapolis Foundation

Bill Hawkins

Bill Hawkins
Chairman and CEO
Medtronic, Inc.

Charlie Weaver

Charlie Weaver
Executive Director
Minnesota Business Partnership

Stephen Shank
Stephen SHANK
FOUNDER, CAPELLA UNIVERSITY

Jay Cowles
Jay Cowles
Unity Avenue Associates

Fr. Michael J. O'Connell

Fr. Michael J. O'Connell

Kelly Doran

Doran Companies

Sheila Wright, Ph.D.
Dean, Hamline School of Education
Hamline University