May 16, 2017

The Honorable Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. 140

Dear Governor Dayton:

On behalf of locally elected school board members, superintendents and school administrators across the state of Minnesota, we want to express our thanks and support to Rep. Erickson and Sen. Pratt for their tireless work on the teacher licensure bill. We ask you to join us in supporting this bill and sign it into law.

We appreciate the long hours of work that began with the Office of Legislative Auditor report on teacher licensure over one year ago. It was clear from the report Minnesota’s teacher licensure system is “broken and confusing”. Throughout the work of Teacher Licensure Study Group, we as stakeholders, have been invited to work collaboratively with Rep. Erickson and Sen. Pratt and their staff. We shared thoughts, ideas and testimony from our members to best articulate the daily hiring challenges facing our schools. We are grateful for their partnership in this journey and the positive reform this bill. We are confident this will open pathways and provide flexibility to teacher licensure, helping school districts combat the issue of teacher shortage.

We support the transfer of all teacher licensing activities to the newly created Professional Educator Licensing Board. We welcome the clarity and independence the new board will provide to best serve the needs of new and tenured teachers in Minnesota.

The new tiered licensure system will provide the much-needed flexibility our districts need to combat a teacher shortage as well as meet the goals of Minnesota’s World’s Best Workforce. We appreciate Rep. Erickson and Sen. Pratt’s trust in our school districts’ judgement and decision-making to place the best teacher in front of our students.

We ask you to join us in supporting H.F. 140 and urge you to sign the bill when it arrives on your desk.

Sincerely,