



May 21, 2015

Governor Mark Dayton
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

Thank you for your vocal support of education in Minnesota. As teachers with many decades of experience teaching in public schools, we share your passion for educating Minnesota students, and ensuring a world-class education for students in every ZIP code across the state.

You speak of a desire to implement real reforms in helping to close the achievement gap—we agree, and want to be partners rather than adversaries in this effort. The bill you are intent on vetoing earned overwhelming bipartisan support, with 123 legislators from both parties voting in support and just 73 voting in opposition. It provides more than a \$205 average increase per pupil statewide for every student in every classroom and more than \$60 million in new funding for proven early learning initiatives, including early education scholarships and school pre-K aid.

Our differences in opinion on this issue are rooted not in hatred for public schools, as you recently stated, but rather a goal to target our resources effectively to ensure we are lifting up the children who need the most help on their path to educational achievement.

We respectfully request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss this important issue as we try to resolve our differences. We wish to share with you our perspective as teachers, parents of public school children, and yes, Republicans, on education and how we can best ensure future success for every Minnesota student.

Andrea Erickson Jennifer Loom Dean Udell

Bob Dettmer Jim H. [unclear] Peggy [unclear]

Cheryl M. Davis Kelly A. Fenton Dan Fabian

