

Monday, February 21, 2022

Dear Chair of the House Education Policy Committee:

I am writing today as an engaged community member and elementary school teacher in Duluth, Minnesota. I submit this testimony in support of HF3434.

As an educator in the state, it is my goal to ensure that my students are adequately prepared for the world they are going to live in. This is no small task and involves many educators, parents/guardians, and administrators working together to bring a multi-faceted education to our students in Minnesota. I am grateful for the proposed HF3434 because I believe this will be one more essential piece of the puzzle in the education of our students.

When our students learn about different races and ethnicities, different perspectives and beliefs, their own perspectives can broaden and they can more easily see the layers of depth and perspective that exist amongst peers. Later these skills can transfer to working more collaboratively with colleagues, neighbors, and friends. While it is difficult to predict what kinds of knowledge our students will need in ten, twenty, or thirty years from now, what we do know is that they will always need the skills that enable them to be able to work with people who hold different perspectives and experiences. Including ethnic studies in the curriculum will allow our students to learn about the traditionally less-shared perspectives of people of color, making the curriculum more inclusive and inviting to all students, particularly our students of color who often do not see themselves as part of the curriculum. This is imperative for the success of all students.

Therefore, for the children who are our future, I urge the committee to support HF3434.

Sincerely,

Elaine Schmid