Subject: Please Advocate for Science Professional Development (SF3425) in Education Finance Spending Bill

Hello Senator\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am reaching out to you as a member of the Minnesota Science Teachers Association, a science teacher,and as a constituent in your district, to ask you to speak with Senator Chamberlain to advocate for the inclusion of the appropriation of professional development dollars for science professional development programs (as written in SF3425) in the Senate Education Finance Spending bill.  These professional development programs are vital to support and maintain the high-quality teaching of science that makes Minnesota one of the best in the nation.

A comprehensive and high-quality science education is vital to our state's continued economic growth and sustainability.  The 2019 Minnesota Science Standards are based on the most cutting-edge educational research, and include content and pedagogy that teachers need ongoing training in to be effective in the classroom.  I want and need to be the best science educator I can be, and continued training in best practices and teaching strategies is the best way to ensure that my students, OUR students, are getting the highest quality science education we can offer them.  ALL Minnesota students need science educators that can provide them comprehensive foundational knowledge and understanding of science processes and phenomena. They are the upcoming generations of Minnesota students that will become the new leaders in industry, medicine, research, conservation, sustainable farming, engineering and other areas of science.  They are absolutely integral to Minnesota's continued prosperity.

As you are aware, there is great concern for the student learning gap that has grown more substantial due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  As an educator, I will do anything I can to help my students recover.  The new Minnesota Science Standards (2019) are based in cutting edge research and include a depth in multi-disciplinary that we have not seen before in the science standards.  Specifically, these new standards, which center around Science and Engineering Practices, include specific and targeted benchmarks in reading literacy and mathematical computational thinking.  These practices are weaved through every standard and create natural and authentic opportunities for students to use reading, writing and mathematics to collect data, obtain information through research and investigation, and evaluate and communicate evidence and reasoning.  By funding professional development for K12 science educators in these new standards, and the multidisciplinary pedagogical (teaching) strategies, we can provide additional practice, skill building and experiences for our students to decrease the learning gap.  This professional development is essential, and must be made available to all science educators, at all levels, in all parts of Minnesota.

The request for funding for these science professional development programs in SF3425 go beyond paying for teacher professional development.  It is an investment in the future of Minnesota, and its place in the global community.  It is an investment in preparing our students to be a conscientious and knowledgeable citizenry that can make informed decisions regarding how to navigate the crossroads of industry and economy, and sustainability and resource management, for the benefit of everyone.  It is an investment in our future.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I am asking for your support.  Please advocate for the inclusion of the funding appropriations for science professional development, as written in SF3425, in the Senate Education Finance Spending Bill.  I am happy to be at your disposal to testify and/or answer questions.

Thank you,

*Your Name*

*Name of School, Position*

*HOME Address*

*Email Address*

MnSTA Member