

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor, State of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Tim Walz,

For the past three years, the Minnesota Department of Education, working with a handpicked “standards review committee” has reviewed and revised the state academic standards for social studies. This review and revision finally culminated in a public hearing with the Chief Administrative Law Judge finding legal deficiencies with the proposed standards. We anticipate these defects will be promptly fixed with the revised standards resubmitted for approval.

The last step in the process is your approval or veto of the proposed rule (standards). We strongly urge you to exercise your veto authority over the proposed standards.

The Chief Administrative Law Judge’s mandate is to find legal deficiencies, but it remains within your authority and duty to be mindful of the academic deficiencies within the proposed standards.

It is unfortunate that the Minnesota Department of Education has chosen or allowed their standards review process to be highjacked by extremists seeking the political radicalization of public schools. At a time when fewer than half of our students can read at grade level, the Department of Education is focused on political activism.

The proposed state standards are filled with politically weaponized terminology that hold no academic value but seek only to dehumanize and rationalize unspeakable violence. We have seen the unfortunate consequences of this ideology in our institutions of higher education, even at the University of Minnesota, embroiled in charges of anti-Semitism and hostile learning environments. We cannot allow our public K-12 schools to follow the same path.

In exercising your veto, you can send a strong message that our classrooms should strive to be centers of academic excellence, rather than social justice warrior workshops. You had the courage to denounce the anti-Semitic smears released by the Democratic Socialists following the horrendous October 7<sup>th</sup> attacks on Israel, and we ask you to again summon that same courage now in defense of our public schools.

Any concerns you may have that your veto would derail or delay the need to adopt and implement new standards can be resolved through the Legislative process. The Legislature could adopt new standards crafted independently by experts free of radical political entanglements, such as the Democratic Socialists, and adopt academic standards serving the best interest of all our students. We stand ready to assist you in this process.

At a time when there is so much political division, we can use this as an opportunity to find common ground and focus on academic excellence and opportunities.

Sincerely,



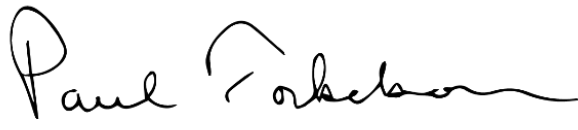
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Peggy Bennett  
State Representative District 23A



Lisa Demuth  
Republican Leader District 13A



Paul Torkelson  
State Representative District 15B



Pam Altendorf  
State Representative District 20A



Patti Anderson  
State Representative District 33A



Paul Anderson  
State Representative District 12A



Jeff Backer  
State Representative District 9A



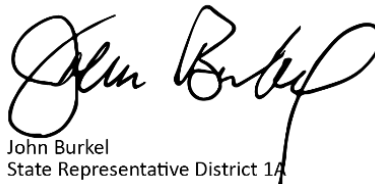
Ben Bakeberg  
State Representative District 54B



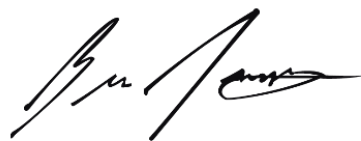
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State Representative District 16B



Matt Bliss  
State Representative District 2B



John Burkel  
State Representative District 1A



Brian Daniels  
State Representative District 19A



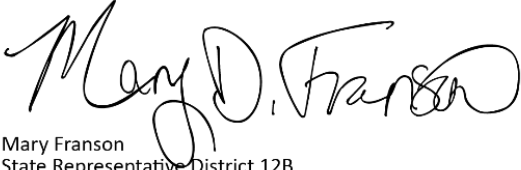
Greg Davids  
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State Representative District 36A



Mary Franson  
State Representative District 12B



Dawn Gillman  
State Representative District 17A



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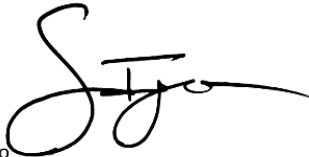
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Walter Hudson  
State Representative District 30A



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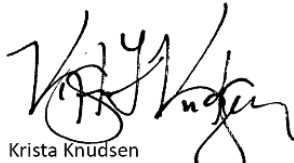
Brian Johnson  
State Representative District 28A



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State Representative District 4B



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State Representative District 1B



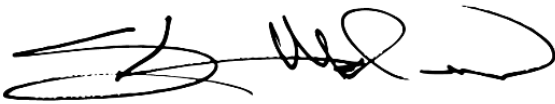
Krista Knudsen  
State Representative District 5A



Jon Koznick  
State Representative District 57A



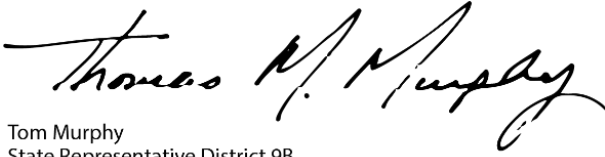
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