



Friday, February 4, 2022



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## The Charter School *Advocate*

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### **INTRODUCING JOEY CIENIAN: MACS PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY DIRECTOR**



Joey has a Master's Degree in Teaching from Hamline University and Bachelors' Degrees in History and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Joey worked for over a decade at the High School for Recording Arts where he served as the Director of Education. Before working at HSRA, he was a Political Organizer for Greenpeace in Arizona and Minnesota. He is a political advocate committed to equity and social justice, passionate about civic

engagement, and a storyteller. Joey also enjoys making art and music, playing basketball, and enjoying the great Minnesota outdoors with his wife Annie and daughters Willa and June.

As Public Policy and Advocacy Director, Joey works collaboratively to develop and execute the public policy agenda and implement the Advocacy goals of The Association

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## THIS WEEK @ THE CAPITOL

### **Bills introduced this week – 504 Bills in the House & 320 Bills in the Senate.**

**Wednesday, February 2nd** - The **House Education Finance Committee** heard from **students** from five different Minnesota schools, including one charter school (*Voyageurs Expeditionary School*). The students spoke about the need for increased diversity of teaching staff, the importance of culturally responsive and real-world relevant programming, increasing mental health resources, the challenges of the pandemic, the importance of alternative schools, and the challenges of post-secondary costs and options.

**Wednesday, February 2nd** - The **House Education Policy Committee** discussed a [Report](#) on "*Trading Sex and Sexual Exploitation among High School Students.*" Testifiers were from The MYST Project, The [Safe Harbor Program](#) at Minnesota Department of Health, Youthworks, and Women's Foundation of Minnesota. The panel spoke on the results of the most recent Minnesota Student Survey which discussed how "trading sex" is correlated with a variety of harmful outcomes for students, disproportionately impacts some groups more than others, is a public health issue, and impacts youth who are in Minnesota schools right now.

**Thursday, February 3rd** – The House Education Finance Committee discussed [Examining Student and Staff Mental Health Needs](#) in Minnesota Schools. Testifiers spoke about the recent tensions and challenges for students and school staff regarding mental health needs in schools which have worsened during the pandemic period. They highlighted the need for the legislature to help with providing guidance and supplemental funding to hire more student support personnel and establish clearer systems and more support in recruiting and certifying mental health workers. They also discussed the need for more funding and strategies in retaining and supporting current educators who are feeling overstretched and are struggling with their own mental health challenges.

### **PARENTAL RIGHTS BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

- **SF 2666/HF 2844** – "Within the first two weeks of the school term, the classroom teacher of record must make electronically available to students and parents a syllabus for the class. If more than 20 percent of the topics to be covered during the term change or if the teacher of record changes, a new syllabus must be made available."
- **SF 2575** – "Without cost and immediately upon request," ..... "School districts must notify and inform parents of this policy at the beginning of each school year by United

States mail, e-mail, or other direct form of communication, and must include the policy in the official school handbook or an official school policy guide.”

## **CURRICULUM BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

- **HF 2778** - “The commissioner of education must not require in rule or otherwise that a school district or charter school: (1) provide students instruction in critical race theory; or (2) plan or provide staff development activities that include critical race theory.”
- **HF 2779** – “To advance critical thinking skills in history and science, a school district must provide instruction to students in grades 9 to 12 exploring the contrast between the scientific facts on how sickness, disease, pain, suffering, and death relate to the existence of complex living organisms, and how sickness, disease, pain, suffering, and death are a consequence imposed by the Creator of complex living organisms.”
- **SF 2735/ HF 2046** – Would require students to complete the FASFA for high school graduation beginning with 2022-2023

## **OTHER EDUCATION RELATED BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

- **SF 2822 – MDE Education Policy Bill** – contains various proposals that have been introduced in the legislature in past sessions. (*More about the specific charter provisions next week*)
- **SF 2729/HF 2829** – Would prohibit school boards and charter school boards from requiring people providing testimony at a board meeting from disclosing the person’s address or other contact information.
- **SF 2815/HF 2832** – Would establish COVID-19 vaccination requirements for school staff
- **HF 2899** – Would prohibit COVID-19 and influenza vaccine requirements by public institutions (including schools) and businesses
- **HF 2950/SF 2874** - Providing educator support, crisis online learning, and short-call substitutes.

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## **NEXT WEEK @ THE CAPITOL - FEBRUARY 7-11**

- **Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Senate Education Committee - Informational hearing LiveMoreScreenLess & student mental health.
- **Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** – House Education Policy Committee – **HF 2950** – Providing educator support, crisis online learning, and short-call substitutes
- **Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** – House Ed Finance Committee – **HF 2944** & **HF 1939** - English Learner Cross-Subsidy and Increase in English Learner Aid
- **Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** – House Ed Finance Committee – **HF 2751** – Establish a Work Group on Special Education Tuition Billing
- **Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** – House Education Policy Committee – **HF 3079** – Teachers of Color Act

- **Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** – House Ed Finance Committee – Presentation of Governor’s Supplementary Education Budget

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## **PAGE AMENDMENT EDUCATOR & COMMUNITY GROUP**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis has convened an **Educator & Community Group** to discuss important issues related to the language “**quality**”, “**skills necessary**” and “**uniform achievement standards**” that are found in the proposed Page Amendment. The Group of some 30+ people is co-chaired by **Dean Kathlene Holmes Campbell**, University of St. Thomas, and **Superintendent Barb Duffrin**, Mahtomedi Public Schools. The intent is to put forth possible recommendations for the implementation of the Amendment.

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***"Unleashing education from convention"*** - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion **Call To Action**.

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