

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Education Minnesota PAC (30558);

1. The Education Minnesota PAC is a political fund. Isaacson (Jason) for SD 42 is the principal campaign committee of Senator Jason Isaacson. The maximum total amount a political fund could contribute to a candidate for state senator during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment was \$1,000. The fund's 2019 year-end report of receipts and expenditures (amendment 1) disclosed two contributions made to the Isaacson committee totaling \$350 and the fund's 2020 year-end report (amendment 1) disclosed two additional contributions made to the Isaacson committee totaling \$700. The excess of \$50 was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. The fund's treasurer, Carrie Lucking, explained that when a \$500 contribution made to the Isaacson committee in 2020 was entered into the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software, it was mistakenly entered as a contribution made to Senator Isaacson's former principal campaign committee for Minnesota House District 42B, which was terminated in 2016. As a result, the software did not detect the violation of the individual contribution limit and the fund did not become aware of the issue until the data entry error was discovered in 2021, at which point the excess amount could no longer be returned in order to avoid a violation.

3. The parties agree that the fund inadvertently made excessive contributions to the Isaacson committee in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1, during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. This is the fund's second violation of the individual contribution limit. The fund made contributions during the 2013-2014 election cycle that exceeded the individual contribution limit by \$300. No civil penalty was imposed against the Education Minnesota PAC for that violation because at the time, a defect within the Campaign Finance Reporter software made it difficult for treasurers to identify actual violations.

4. To avoid similar violations in the future, the fund agrees to:
 - a. Ensure that contributions made by the fund are entered in the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software using the correct Board registration number and name for the recipient; and

 - b. Update the Campaign Finance Reporter software whenever the software notifies the user that a new version is available or that it has been more than 30 days since the user has downloaded files from the Board.

5. The Education Minnesota PAC agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$50, one times the amount of the violation, for making contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

6. The fund also agrees to provide to the Board, within 60 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that \$50 has been refunded by the Isaacson committee.

7. If the fund does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Carrie Lucking
Carrie Lucking, Treasurer
Education Minnesota PAC

Dated: September 24, 2021

/s/ Stephen Swanson
Stephen Swanson, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: September 1, 2021