

## Education Minnesota

# Education Minnesota condemns hateful rhetoric and supports Teacher of the Year's call to get out the vote

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*ST. PAUL, Minnesota. Oct. 2, 2020* – Education Minnesota joined 2020 Teacher of the Year Qorsho Hassan in condemning hateful rhetoric from certain politicians that inspired racial, xenophobic harassment of Hassan over the weekend.

Education Minnesota President Denise Specht released the following statement in support on Friday afternoon.

“Minnesota’s strength comes from us being there for each other – bringing together different people from different places and from different races into a community. For our state to be a place where all of us can thrive, we must condemn President Trump and all politicians who try to win elections by dividing us based on what we look like, where we come from or how we pray. We stand with Qorsho Hassan and all our friends and neighbors who have become targets of harassment and hate this fall. But, as Qorsho said, the fear-mongers cannot silence us. They cannot keep us from turning out in record numbers this fall to show that every vote counts, ensure that every vote is counted and swear in a government, of, by and for the people – no exceptions.”

Hassan appeared at a news conference on Friday afternoon organized by Faith in Minnesota. During the news conference she said that on Saturday she was in Duluth and was harassed by a group of young white men in a pickup truck. They yelled, “Make America great!” and hateful insults in an attempt to intimidate her. Her comments at the news conference are recorded on the Faith in Minnesota Facebook page.

### About Education Minnesota

Education Minnesota is the voice for professional educators and students. Education Minnesota’s members include teachers and education support professionals in Minnesota’s public school districts, faculty members at Minnesota’s community and technical colleges and University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and Crookston, retired educators and student teachers. Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and AFL-CIO.

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