

August 10, 2026

Scott R. Goings, Esq.
General Counsel
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 East 7th Street, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-7804

Sent via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail (scott.goings@minnstate.edu)

Dear Mr. Goings:

Thank you for your response to our previous letters concerning Anoka-Ramsey Community College's restrictions on expression and assembly for non-affiliated organizations and individuals. We commend the college for shortening its notice requirement from one week to three days and especially for removing the ban on proselytizing.¹ These were significant and necessary steps toward complying with the First Amendment.

However, the designated expression and assembly areas appear to remain unchanged. The policy still seems to leave only one area—on the periphery of campus—broadly open for expressive activity. Some sidewalks are open for literature distribution, but precisely which ones are unclear, as one provision lists only “[s]idewalks adjacent to the east parking lot, up to but not crossing College Drive,” whereas another appears broader, stating “[n]on-affiliated organizations and individuals have the freedom to distribute information and products on outdoor college property that is defined ‘public’ by law,” which “includes sidewalks along the service roads and outwards through parking lots to streets.” Accordingly, rather than clearly identifying meaningful areas for expression, the policy both confines most expressive activity to a single peripheral location and leaves the scope of the remaining permissible areas unclear.²

We urge the college to address these remaining First Amendment concerns. We recognize that revising the policy may require a more nuanced and individualized assessment of different areas of campus than was required to address the two issues the college has already resolved. Our offer to assist the college free of charge remains open, and we would be happy to discuss the issue over email or phone.

¹ See *Policy 5L.1 Expression and Assembly*, ANOKA-RAMSEY CMTY. COLL., <https://www.anokaramsey.edu/about/policies-disclosures/policies-procedures/policy-5l1-expression-and-assembly.html>.

² We more fully described these concerns in our April 3 letter.

We respectfully request a response regarding this remaining issue, as well as confirmation that the shortened notice requirement and removal of the ban on proselytizing are reflected in all locations the Expression and Assembly policy is published, by August 31, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Brennen VanderVeen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Brennen VanderVeen
Program Counsel, Public Advocacy

Cc: Jessica Medearis, Anoka-Ramsey Community College