

April 21, 2023

Dear Conference Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of SF 1426, specifically about the importance of establishing a Minnesota Youth Advisory Council. I am hopeful this provision will be included in the final conference committee bill.

I am compelled to write because I believe an advisory council will fundamentally strengthen the state government's understanding of the inherent worth of young people's perspectives. Furthermore, I believe that every taxpayer would benefit in multiple ways from a deeper understanding.

As an advocate for young people, I am dedicated to the well-being of others who don't have a seat at the table when it comes to decision making in government. As a result of improper representation of young people, I have seen the barriers for them grow and concern for our future increase. It's becoming clearer each day that this is part and parcel to so many of our social issues we face in today's social climate.

Young people are capable of great things when given opportunities. Trust them...they'll show you! Allowing the underrepresented voice of young people input into our collective governance is fundamental to good decision making. Please consider the positive outcomes a state advisory council will provide for your own community and for communities across our state.

Thank you for your service. I urge to include the Youth Advisory Board provision in the final bill that passes the conference committee.

Sincerely,



Paul Meunier  
Executive Director  
MN Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA)