

**The Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color
and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota**

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Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the House State Government Finance and Elections Committee,

I write with enthusiastically support of HF3853 establishing a MN Youth Advisory Council. The Minnesota Youth Council and its student representatives have been an impressive and steadfast partner and leader over the past several years with our Coalition's efforts to pass the Increase Teachers of Color Act. It is easily apparent at every hearing their representatives testify, they are the voices which command the most attention in contrast to most adults who testify and lobby.

This is no surprise because youth have important perspectives on a range of issues that adults need to hear and act upon. This bill will institutionalize and center the important voices and perspectives of youth who are our most important stakeholders as current and future voters, civic leaders, business owners, employees, teachers and parents.

Please do what is right and make history in the country by passing this bill and making our great state the first to establish such a Youth Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Paul Spies, PhD
Legislative Action Team Lead for the Coalition