



To Whom it May Concern

3/22/2023

Subject: Letter of Support for Legislative Bill 2797 Funding 826 MSP

Dear Legislator,

As a dedicated educator at Sandburg Middle School in the Robbinsdale Area School District and a proud board member of the 826 MSP organization, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Legislative Bill 2797. This important legislation would provide essential funding for 826 MSP, an organization that has had a remarkable impact on Minnesota's students, educators, and the broader community for the past several years.

826 MSP plays a critical role in fostering the development of writing, reading, and critical thinking skills among our students. Through their innovative and engaging programs, they offer young people a platform to express themselves creatively and authentically. Their unique approach combines academic support with personal exploration, creating a nurturing environment where students can grow and develop as writers, learners and leaders.

As a teacher and board member, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative power of 826 MSP's programs. Students who were once hesitant to share their thoughts or struggled to find their voice have become confident writers, eager to share their stories with their peers and the broader world. The funding proposed in Legislative Bill 2797 would enable 826 MSP to expand its reach, ultimately benefiting an even greater number of students and educators. This investment in our community's future will result in stronger academic performance, increased confidence, and a more vibrant, inclusive community. I wholeheartedly believe that this funding is essential to the continued success and growth of 826 MSP.

I urge you to support Legislative Bill 2797, and by doing so, invest in the future of our students and our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelby Dale DeWeese".

Shelby Dale DeWeese, M.F.A. & M.Ed.
she/her/hers
Writer and Middle School English Teacher
Minneapolis, Minnesota